











THE TRAGEDY OF  
KING RICHARD  
THE THIRD : *By*  
*WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE* \* \* \* \*



BLISS, SANDS & CO.

L O N D O N

*MDCCCXCVIII.*



# THE TRAGEDY OF KING RICHARD III.

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## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

KING EDWARD THE FOURTH  
EDWARD, *Prince of Wales, afterwards king Edward the Fifth,* } *Sons to the King.*  
RICHARD, *Duke of York,* }  
GEORGE, *Duke of Clarence,* } *Brothers to the King*  
RICHARD, *Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard the Third,* }  
*A young Son of Clarence*  
HENRY, *Earl of Richmond; afterwards King Henry the Seventh*  
CARDINAL BOURCHIER, *Archbishop of Canterbury*  
THOMAS ROTHERHAM, *Archbishop of York.*  
JOHN MORTON, *Bishop of Ely.*  
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM  
DUKE OF NORFOLK  
EARL OF SURREY, *his son*  
EARL RIVERS, *Brother to Elizabeth*  
MARQUESS OF DORSET and LORD GREY, *Sons to Elizabeth.*  
EARL OF OXFORD  
LORD HASTINGS  
LORD STANLEY, *called also EARL OF DERBY.*  
LORD LOVEL  
SIR THOMAS VAUGHAN  
SIR RICHARD RATCLIFF



SIR WILLIAM CATESBY.

SIR JAMES TYRREL.

SIR JAMES BLOUNT.

SIR WALTER HERBERT

SIR ROBERT BRAKENBURY, *Lieutenant of the Tower.*

CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, *a Priest*    *Another Priest.*

TRESEL and BERKELEY, *Gentlemen attending on the Lady Anne*

*Lord Mayor of London*    *Sheriff of Wiltshire.*

ELIZABETH, *Queen to King Edward the Fourth.*

MARGARET, *Widow of King Henry the Sixth*

DUCHESS OF YORK, *Mother to King Edward the Fourth, Clarence, and Gloucester*

LADY ANNE, *Widow of Edward Prince of Wales, son to King Henry the Sixth, afterwards married to Richard. A young daughter of Clarence, Margaret Plantagenet.*

*Lords and other Attendants; a Pursuivant, Scrivener, Citizens, Murderers, Messengers, Soldiers, &c.*

*Ghosts of those murdered by Richard the Third.*

SCENE.—England.

## ACT I.

SCENE I. London. A Street.

*Enter GLOUCESTER.*

*Glou* Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by this sun of York;

And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house  
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths ;  
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments ;  
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings ;  
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.  
Grim-visaged war hath smooth'd his wrinkled  
front ;

And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds  
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,  
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber  
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.  
But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks,  
Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass ;  
I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's  
majesty

To strut before a wanton ambling nymph ;  
I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,  
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,  
Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time  
Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,  
And that so lamely and unfashionable  
That dogs bark at me as I halt by them ;  
Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,  
Have no delight to pass away the time,  
Unless to see my shadow in the sun  
And descant on mine own deformity :  
And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,  
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,  
I am determin'd to prove a villain,  
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.  
Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,  
By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,

To set my brother Clarence and the king  
In deadly hate the one against the other :  
And if King Edward be as true and just  
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,  
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up,  
About a prophesy, which says that G  
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.  
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul. here Clarence  
comes.

*Enter CLARENCE, guarded, and BRAKENBURY.*

Brother, good day. What means this armed guard  
That waits upon your grace ?

*Clar.* His majesty,  
Tendering my person's safety, hath appointed  
This conduct to convey me to the Tower.

*Glou.* Upon what cause ?

*Clar.* Because my name is George.

*Glou.* Alack ! my lord, that fault is none of  
yours ;

He should, for that, commit your godfathers.  
O ! belike his majesty hath some intent  
That you should be new-christen'd in the Tower.  
But what's the matter, Clarence ? may I know ?

*Clar.* Yea, Richard, when I know ; for I protest

As yet I do not : but, as I can learn,  
He hearkens after prophecies and dreams ;  
And from the cross-row plucks the letter G.  
And says a wizard told him that by G,  
His issue disinherited should be ;  
And, for my name of George begins with G,  
It follows in his thought that I am he.

These, as I warn, and such like toys as these  
Have moved his highness to commit me now.

*Glou.* Why, this it is, when men are ruled by women :

'Tis not the king that sends you to the Tower ;  
My Lady Grey his wife, Clarence, 't is she  
That tempers him to this extremity.  
Was it not she and that good man of worship,  
Anthony Woodville, her brother there,  
That made him send Lord Hastings to the Tower,  
From whence this present day he is deliver'd ?  
We are not safe, Clarence ; we are not safe.

*Clar.* By heaven, I think there is no man secure  
But the queen's kindred and night-walking heralds  
That trudge betwixt the king and Mistress Shore.  
Heard ye not what an humble suppliant  
Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery ?

*Glou.* Humbly complaining to her deity  
Got my lord chamberlain his liberty.

I'll tell you what ; I think it is our way,  
If we will keep in favour with the king,  
To be her men and wear her livery :  
The jealous o'erworn widow and herself,  
Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewomen  
Are mighty gossips in our monarchy.

*Brak.* I beseech your graces both to pardon me ;

His majesty hath straitly given in charge  
That no man shall have private conference,  
Of what degree soever, with his brother.

*Glou.* Even so ; an't please your worship,  
Brakenbury,

You may partake of any thing we say :

We speak no treason, man : we say the king  
Is wise and virtuous, and his noble queen  
Well struck in years, fair, and not jealous ;  
We say that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,  
A cherry lip, a bonny eye, a passing pleasing  
tongue ;

And that the queen's kindred are made gentlefolks.  
How say you, sir ? can you deny all this ?

*Brak.* With this, my lord, myself have nought  
to do

*Glou.* Naught, to do with Mistress Shore ! I  
tell thee, fellow,

He that doth naught with her, excepting one,  
Were best he do it secretly, alone.

*Brak.* What one, my lord ?

*Glou.* Her husband, knave. Would'st thou  
betray me ?

*Brak.* I beseech your grace to pardon me ; and  
withal

Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

*Clar.* We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and  
will obey.

*Glou.* We are the queen's abjects, and must  
obey.

Brother, farewell : I will unto the king ;  
And whatso'er you will employ me in,  
Were it to call King Edward's widow sister,  
I will perform it to enfranchise you,  
Meantime, this deep disgrace in brotherhood  
Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

*Clar.* I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

*Glou.* Well, your imprisonment shall not be  
long ;

I will deliver you, or else lie for you :  
Meantime, have patience

*Clar.* I must perforce : farewell.

[*Exeunt CLARENCE, BRAKENBURY, and Guard.*]

*Glou.* Go, tread the path that thou shalt ne'er  
return,

Simple, plain Clarence ! I do love thee so  
That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,  
If heaven will take the present at our hands.  
But who comes here ? the new-deliver'd Hastings ?

• *Enter HASTINGS.*

*Hast.* Good time of day unto my gracious lord !

*Glou.* As much unto my good lord chamberlain !  
Well are you welcome to this open air.

How hath your lordship brook'd imprisonment ?

*Hast.* With patience, noble lord, as prisoners  
must ;

• But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks  
That were the cause of my imprisonment.

*Glou.* No doubt, no doubt ; and so shall  
Clarence too ;

• For they that were your enemies are his,  
And have prevail'd as much on him as you.

*Hast.* More pity that the eagle should be  
mew'd,

While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

*Glou.* What news abroad ?

*Hast.* No news so bad abroad as this at home ;  
The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,  
And his physicians fear him mightily.

*Glou.* Now, by Saint Paul, this news is bad  
indeed.

O! he hath kept an evil diet long,  
And overmuch consumed his royal person:  
'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.  
What! is he in his bed?

*Hast.* He is.

*Glou.* Go you before, and I will follow you.

[*Exit* HASTINGS.]

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die  
'Till George be pack'd with post-horse up to  
heaven.

I'll in, to urge h's hatred more to Clarence,  
With lies well steel'd with weighty arg'ments;  
And, if I fail not in my deep intent,  
Clarence hath not another day to live:  
Which done, God take King Edward to his  
mercy,

And leave the world for me to bustle in!  
For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter.  
What though I kill'd her husband and her father?  
'The readiest way to make the wench amends  
Is to become her husband and her father.  
'The which will I; not all so much for love  
As for another secret close intent,  
By marrying her which I must reach unto.  
But yet I run before my horse to market:  
Clarence still breathes; Edward still lives and  
reigns:

When they are gone, then must I count my gains  
[*Exit.*]

SCENE II. *The Same. Another Street.*

*Enter the corpse of King HENRY THE SIXTH, borne*

*in an open coffin, Gentlemen bearing halberds, to guard it; and Lady ANNE as mourner.*

*Anne.* Set down, set down your honourable load,

If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,  
Whilst I awhile obsequiously lament  
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.  
Poor key-cold figure of a holy king!  
Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster!  
Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood!  
Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,  
To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,  
Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son,  
Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these  
wounds!

Lo! in these windows that let forth thy life,  
I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes.  
O! cursed be the hand that made these holes;  
Cursed the heart that had the heart to do it!  
Cursed the blood that let this blood from hence!  
More direful hap betide that hated wretch,  
That makes us wretched by the death of thee,  
Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,  
Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives!  
If ever he have child, abortive be it,  
Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,  
Whose ugly and unnatural aspect  
May fright the hopeful mother at the view;  
And that be heir to his unhappiness!  
If ever he have wife, let her be made  
More miserable by the death of him  
Than I am made by my young lord and thee!  
Come, now towards Chertsey with your holy load,



Taken from Paul's to be interred there;  
And still, as you are weary of this weight,  
Rest you, whiles I lament King Henry's corse.  
[*The Bearers take up the corpse and advance.*]

*Enter GLOUCESTER.*

*Glou.* Stay, you that bear the corse, and set it down.

*Anne.* What black magician conjures up this fiend,

To stop devoted charitable deeds?

*Glou.* Villains! set down the corse; or, by Saint Paul,

I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.

*First Gent.* My lord, stand back, and let the coffin pass.

*Glou.* Unmanner'd dog! stand thou when I command:

Advance thy halberd higher than my breast,  
Or, by Saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,  
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.

[*The Bearers set down the coffin.*]

*Anne.* What! do you tremble? are you all afraid?

Alas! I blame you not; for you are mortal,  
And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.  
Avaunt! thou dreadful minister of hell;  
Thou hadst but power over his mortal body,  
His soul thou canst not have: therefore, be gone.

*Glou.* Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.

*Anne.* Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and trouble us not;

For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,

Fill'd it with cursing cries and deep exclams.  
If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,  
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries.  
O! gentlemen; see, see! dead Henry's wounds  
Open their congeal'd mouths and bleed afresh.  
Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity,  
For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood  
From cold and empty veins, where no blood  
dwells:

Thy deed, inhuman and unnatural,  
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.

O God! which this blood madest, revenge his  
death;

• O earth! which this blood drink'st, revenge his  
death;

Either heaven with lightning strike the murderer  
dead,

Or earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick,

• As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,  
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered!

*Glou.* Lady, you know no rules of charity,  
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

*Anne.* Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor  
man:

No beast so fierce but knows some touch of pity.

*Glou.* But I know none, and therefore am no  
beast.

*Anne.* O! wonderful, when devils tell the  
truth.

*Glou.* More wonderful when angels are so  
angry.

Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman,  
• Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,

By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

*Anne.* Vouchsafe, diffused infection of a man,  
For these known evils, but to give me leave,  
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

*Glou.* Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me  
have

Some patient leisure to excuse myself.

*Anne.* Fouler than heart can think thee, thou  
canst make

No excuse current, but to hang thyself.

*Glou.* By such despair I should accuse myself.

*Anne.* And by despairing shouldst thou stand  
excused

For doing worthy vengeance on thyself,  
Which didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

*Glou.* Say that I slew them not.

*Anne.* Then say they were not slain :  
But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee.

*Glou.* I did not kill your husband.

*Anne.* Why, then he is alive.

*Glou.* Nay, he is dead ; and slain by Edward's  
hand.

*Anne.* In thy foul throat thou liest : Queen  
Margaret saw

Thy murderous falchion smoking in his blood ;  
The which thou once didst bend against her  
breast,

But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

*Glou.* I was provoked by her slanderous tongue,  
Which laid their guilt upon my guiltless  
shoulders.

*Anne.* Thou wast provoked by thy bloody  
mind,

That never dreamt on aught but butcheries.  
Didst thou not kill this king?

*Glou.* I grant ye.

*Anne.* Dost grant me, hedge-hog? then, God  
grant me too

Thou may'st be damned for that wicked deed!

O! he was gentle, mild, and virtuous.

*Glou.* The fitter for the King of heaven that  
hath him.

*Anne.* He is in heaven, where thou shalt never  
come.

*Glou.* Let him thank me, that help to send him  
thither;

For he was fitter for that place than earth.

*Anne.* And thou unfit for any place but hell.

*Glou.* Yes, one place else, if you will hear me  
name it

*Anne.* Some dungeon

*Glou.* Your bedchamber.

*Anne.* Ill rest betide the chamber where thou  
liest!

*Glou.* So will it, madam, till I lie with you.

*Anne.* I hope so

*Glou.* I know so. But, gentle Lady Anne,  
To leave this keen encounter of our wits,  
And fall somewhat into a slower method,  
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths  
Of these Plantagenets, Henry and Edward,  
As blameful as the executioner?

*Anne.* Thou art the cause, and most accursed  
effect.

*Glou.* Your beauty was the cause of that effect;  
Your beauty, that did haunt me in my sleep

To undertake the death of all the world,  
So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom.

*Anne.* If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,  
These nails should rend that beauty from my  
cheeks.

*Glou.* These eyes could not endure that beauty's  
wreck ;

You should not blemish it if I stood by :  
As all the world is cheered by the sun,  
So I by that ; it is my day, my life.

*Anne.* Black night o'ershade thy day, and death  
thy life !

*Glou.* Curse not thyself, fair creature ; thou art  
both.

*Anne.* I would I were, to be revenged on thee.

*Glou.* It is a quarrel most unnatural,  
To be revenged on him that loveth thee.

*Anne.* It is a quarrel just and reasonable,  
To be revenged on him that kill'd my husband.

*Glou.* He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,  
Did it to help thee to a better husband.

*Anne.* His better doth not breathe upon the  
earth.

*Glou.* He lives that loves thee better than he  
could.

*Anne.* Name him.

*Glou.* Plantagenet.

*Anne.* Why, that was he.

*Glou.* The self-same name, but one of better  
nature.

*Anne.* Where is he ?

*Glou.* Here. [*She spitteth at him.*  
Why dost thou spit at me ?

*Anne.* Would it were mortal poison, for thy  
sake !

*Glo.* Never came poison from so sweet a place.

*Anne.* Never hung poison on a fouler toad.

Out of my sight ! thou dost infect mine eyes.

*Glo.* Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected  
mine.

*Anne.* Would they were basilisks, to strike thee  
dead !

*Glo.* I would they were, that I might die at  
once ;

For now they kill me with a living death.

Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt  
tears,

Shamed their aspects with store of childish drops ;

These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear ;

No, when my father York and Edward wept

To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made

When black-faced Clifford shook his sword at  
him ;

Nor when thy war-like father, like a child,

Told the sad story of my father's death,

And twenty times made pause to sob and weep,

That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,

Like trees bedash'd with rain : in that sad time

My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear ;

And what these sorrows could not thence exhale,

Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with  
weeping.

I never sued to friend nor enemy ;

My tongue could never learn sweet smoothing  
words ;

But now thy beauty is proposed my fee,

My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue to  
speak. *[She looks scornfully at him.]*

Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made  
For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.  
If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,  
Lo ! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword ;  
Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,  
And let the soul forth that adareth thee,  
I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,  
And humbly beg the death upon my knee.

*[He lays his breast open . she offers at it  
with his sword.]*

Nay, do not pause ; for I did kill King Henry ;  
But 't was thy beauty that provoked me.  
Nay, now dispatch ; 't was I that stabb'd young  
Edward ;  
But 't was thy heavenly face that set me on.  
*[She lets fall the sword.]*

Take up the sword again, or take up me.

*Anne.* Arise, dissembler : though I wish thy  
death,

I will not be the executioner.

*Glou.* Then bid me kill myself, and I will  
do it.

*Anne.* I have already.

*Glou.*

That was in thy rage :

Speak it again, and even with the word,  
This hand, which, for thy love, did kill thy love,  
Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love :  
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessary.

*Anne.* I would I knew thy heart.

*Glou.* 'T is figured in my tongue.

*Anne.* I fear me both are false.

*Glou.* Then never man was true.

*Anne.* Well, well, put up your sword.

*Glou.* Say, then, my peace is made.

*Anne.* That shalt thou know hereafter.

*Glou.* But shall I live in hope?

*Anne.* All men, I hope, live so

*Glou.* Vouchsafe to wear this ring

*Anne.* To take is not to give.

*Glou.* Look! how this ring encompasseth thy  
finger,

Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart;

Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.

And if thy poor devoted servant may

But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,

Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.

*Anne.* What is it?

*Glou.* That it may please you leave these sad  
designs

To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,

And presently repair to Crosby-place;

Where, after I have solemnly interr'd

At Chertsey monastery this noble king,

And wet his grave with my repentant tears,

I will with all expedient duty see you:

For divers unknown reasons, I beseech you,

Grant me this boon.

*Anne.* With all my heart; and much it joys me  
too

To see you are become so penitent.

Tressel and Berkeley, go along with me.

*Glou.* Bid me farewell.

*Anne.* 'Tis more than you deserve;

But since you teach me how to flatter you,



Imagine I have said farewell already.

[*Exeunt* Lady ANNE, TRESSSEL, and BERKELEY.

*Glou.* Sirs, take up the corse.

*Gent.* Towards Chertsey, noble lord ?

*Glou.* No, to White-Friars ; there attend my coming. [*Exeunt all but* GLOUCESTER.

Was ever woman in this humour woo'd ?

Was ever woman in this humour won ?

I'll have her ; but I will not keep her long

What ! I, that kill'd her husband and his father,

To take her in her heart's extremest hate ;

With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes,

The bleeding witness of her hatred by ;

Having God, her conscience, and these bars  
against me,

And I no friends to back my suit withal,

But the plain devil and dissembling looks,

And yet to win her, all the world to nothing !

Ha !

Hath she forgot already that brave prince,

Edward, her lord, whom I, some three months  
since,

Stabb'd in my angry mood at Tewksbury ?

A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,

Framed in the prodigality of nature,

Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right royal,

The spacious world cannot again afford :

And will she yet abase her eyes on me,

That cropp'd the golden prime of this sweet prince,

And made her widow to a woeful bed ?

On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety ?

On me, that halt and am misshapen thus ?

My dukedom to a beggarly denier

I do mistake my person all this while :  
Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot,  
Myself to be a marvellous proper man.  
I'll be at charges for a looking-glass,  
And entertain a score or two of tailors,  
To study fashions to adorn my body  
Since I am crept in favour with myself,  
I will maintain it with some little cost.  
But first I'll turn yon fellow in his grave,  
And then return lamenting to my love.  
Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass,  
That I may see my shadow as I pass. [Exit.

SCENE III. *The Same. A Room in the Palace.*

*Enter Queen ELIZABETH, Lord RIVERS, and  
Lord GREY.*

• *Riv.* Have patience, madam : there's no doubt  
his majesty

Will soon recover his accustom'd health.

*Grey.* In that you brook it ill, it makes him  
worse :

Therefore, for God's sake, entertain good comfort,  
And cheer his grace with quick and merry words.

*Q. Eliz.* If he were dead, what would betide on  
me ?

*Grey.* No other harm but loss of such a lord.

*Q. Eliz.* The loss of such a lord includes all  
harms.

*Grey.* The heavens have bless'd you with a  
goodly son,  
To be your comforter when he is gone.

*Q. Eliz.* Ah ! he is young ; and his minority  
Is put unto the trust of Richard Gloucester,  
A man that loves not me, nor none of you !

*Riv.* Is it concluded he shall be protector ?

*Q. Eliz.* It is determin'd, not concluded yet :  
But so it must be if the king miscarry.

*Enter BUCKINGHAM and STANLEY.*

*Grey.* Here come the Lords of Buckingham and  
Stanley.

*Buck.* Good time of day unto your royal grace !

*Stan.* God make your majesty joyful as you  
have been !

*Q. Eliz.* The Countess Richmond, good my Lord  
of Stanley,

To your good prayer will scarcely say amen.  
Yet, Stanley, notwithstanding she's your wife,  
And loves not me, be you, good lord, assured  
I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

*Stan.* I do beseech you, either not believe  
The envious slanders of her false accusers,  
Or, if she be accused on true report,  
Bear with her weakness, which, I think, proceeds  
From wayward sickness, and no grounded malice.

*Q. Eliz.* Saw you the king to-day, my Lord of  
Stanley ?

*Stan.* But now the Duke of Buckingham and I  
Are come from visiting his majesty.

*Q. Eliz.* What likelihood of his amendment,  
lords ?

*Buck.* Madam, good hope ; his grace speaks  
cheerfully.

*Q. Eliz.* God grant him health ! Did you confer

with him ?

*Buck.* A, madam : he desires to make atonement

Between the Duke of Gloucester and your brothers,  
And between them and my lord chamberlain ;  
And sent to warn them to his royal presence.

*Q. Eliz.* Would all were well ! But that will never be

I fear our happiness is at the highest.

*Enter* GLOUCESTER, HASTINGS, and DORSET.

*Glou.* They do me wrong, and I will not endure it :

Who are they that complain unto the king,  
That I, forsooth, am stern and love them not ?  
By holy Paul, they love his grace but lightly  
That fill his ears with such dissentious rumours.  
Because I cannot flatter and speak fair,  
Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,  
Duck with French nods and apish courtesy,  
I must be held a rancorous enemy.

Cannot a plain man live and think no harm,  
But thus his simple truth must be abused  
By silken, sly, insinuating Jacks ?

*Grey.* To whom in all this presence speaks your grace ?

*Glou.* To thee, that hast nor honesty nor grace.  
When have I injured thee ? when done thee wrong ?

Or thee ? or thee ? or any of your faction ?  
A plague upon you all ! His royal person,  
Whom God preserve better than you would wish !

Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing-while,  
But you must trouble him with lewd complaints.

*Q. Eliz.* Brother of Gloucester, you mistake the matter.

The king, of his own royal disposition,  
And not provoked by any suitor else,  
Aiming, belike, at your interior hatred,  
That in your outward action shows itself  
Against my kindred, brothers, and myself,  
Makes him to send ; that thereby he may gather  
The ground of your ill-will, and so remove it.

*Glou.* I cannot tell ; the world is grown so bad  
That wrens make prey where eagles dare not  
perch :

Since every Jack became a gentleman  
There's many a gentle person made a Jack.

*Q. Eliz.* Come, come, we know your meaning,  
brother Gloucester ;

You envy my advancement and my friends'.  
God grant we never may have need of you !

*Glou.* Meantime, God grants that we have need  
of you :

Our brother is imprison'd by your means.  
Myself disgraced, and the nobility  
Held in contempt ; while many fair promotions  
Are daily given to ennoble those  
That scarce, some two days since, were worth a  
noble.

*Q. Eliz.* By Him that raised me to this careful  
height

From that contented hap which I enjoy'd,  
I never did incense his majesty  
Against the Duke of Clarence, but have been

An earnest advocate to plead for him.  
 My lord, you do me shameful injury,  
 Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

*Glow.* You may deny that you were not the  
 mean

Of my Lord Hastings' late imprisonment.

*Riv.* She may, my lord, for—

*Glow.* She may, Lord Rivers! why, who knows  
 not so?

She may do more, sir, than denying that :

She may help you to many fair preferments,

And then deny her aiding hand therein,

And lay those honours on your high desert.

What may she not? She may,—ay, marry, may  
 she,—

*Riv.* What, marry, may she?

*Glow.* What, marry, may she! marry with a  
 king,

A bachelor, and a handsome stripling too.

I wish your grandam had a worser match

*Q. Eliz.* My Lord of Gloucester, I have too long  
 bore

Your blunt upbraidings and your bitter scolds ;

By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty

Of those gross taunts that oft I have endured,

I had rather be a country servant maid

Than a great queen, with this condition,

To be so baited, scorn'd, and storied at

Small joy have I in being England's queen.

*Enter Queen MARGARET, behind.*

*Q. Mar.* And lessen'd be that small, God, I  
 beseech him !

Thy honour, state and seat is due to me.

*Glou.* What ! threat you me with telling of the king ?

Tell him, and spare not · look ! what I have said  
I will avouch in presence of the king :

I dare adventure to be sent to the Tower.

'Tis time to speak ; my pains are quite forgot.

*Q. Mar.* Out, devil ! I remember them too well :

Thou kill'dst my husband Henry in the Tower,  
And Edward, my poor son, at Tewksbury.

*Glou.* Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband  
king,

I was a pack-horse in his great affairs,

A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,

A liberal rewarder of his friends ;

To royalise his blood I spilt mine own.

*Q. Mar.* Ay, and much better blood than his, or  
thine

*Glou.* In all which tune you and your husband  
Grey

Were factious for the house of Lancaster ;

And, Rivers, so were you. Was not your husband

In Margaret's battle at Saint Alban's slain ?

Let me put in your minds, if you forget,

What you have been ere now, and what you are ;

Withal, what I have been, and what I am.

*Q. Mar.* A murderous villain, and so still thou  
art.

*Glou.* Poor Clarence did forsake his father  
Warwick,

Ay, and forswore himself, which Jesu pardon !

*Q. Mar.* Which God revenge !

*Glou.* To fight on Edward's party for the crown ;

And for his meed, poor lord, he is mew'd up.  
I would, to God my heart were flint, like Edwards,  
Or Edwards soft and pitiful, like mine :  
I am too childish-toolish for this world.

*Q. Mar.* Hie thee to hell for shame, and leave  
the world,

Thou cacodemon ! there thy kingdom is.

*Riv.* My Lord of Gloucester in those busy days  
Which here you urge to prove us enemies,  
We follow'd then our lord, our lawful king ;  
So should we you, if you should be our king

*Glou.* If I should be ! I had rather be a pedlar.  
Far be it from my heart the thought thereof !

*Q. Eliz.* As little joy, my lord, as you suppose  
You should enjoy, were you this country's king,  
As little joy may you suppose in me  
That I enjoy, being the queen thereof.

*Q. Mar.* A little joy enjoys the queen thereof ;  
For I am she, and altogether joyless  
I can no longer hold me patient. [*Advancing.*  
Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fall out  
In sharing that which you have pill'd from me !  
Which of you trembles not that looks on me ?  
If not, that, I being queen, you bow like subjects,  
Yet that, by you deposed, you quake like rebels ?  
Ah ! gentle villain, do not turn away

*Glou.* Foul wrinkled witen, what makest thou  
in my sight ?

*Q. Mar.* But repetition of what thou hast marr'd ;  
That will I make before I let thee go.

*Glou.* Wert thou not banished on pain of death ?

*Q. Mar.* I was ; but I do find more pain in  
banishment



Than death can yield me here by my abode.  
A husband and a son thou owest to me ; . .  
And thou a kingdom ; all of you allegiance :  
This sorrow that I have by right is yours,  
And all the pleasures you usurp are mine.

*Glou.* The curse my noble father laid on thee,  
When thou didst crown his war-like brows with  
paper,

And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes ;  
And then, to dry them, gavest the duke a clout  
Steep'd in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland ;  
His curses, then from bitterness of soul  
Denounc'd against thee, are all fallen upon thee ;  
And God, not we, hath plagued thy bloody deed.

*Q. Eliz.* So just is God, to right the innocent.

*Hast.* O ! 't was the foulest deed to slay that babe,  
And the most merciless that e'er was heard of.

*Riv.* Tyrants themselves wept when it was  
reported.

*Dor.* No man but prophesied revenge for it !

*Buck.* Northumberland, then present, wept to  
see it.

*Q. Mar.* What ! were you snarling all before I  
came,

Ready to catch each other by the throat,  
And turn you all your hatred now on me ?  
Did York's dread curse prevail so much with  
heaven

That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,  
Their kingdom's loss, my woeful banishment,  
Should all but answer for that peevish brat ?  
Can curses pierce the clouds and enter heaven ?  
Why then, give way, dull clouds, to my quick

curses !

If not by w<sup>a</sup>r, by surfeit die your king,  
As ours by murder, to make him a king !  
Edward thy son, which now is Prince of Wales,  
For Edward my son, which was Prince of Wales,  
Die in his youth by like untimely violence !  
Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,  
Outlive thy glory, like my wretched self !  
Long may'st thou live to wail thy children's loss,  
And see another, as I see thee now,  
Dak'd in ~~thy~~ rights, as thou art stall'd in mine !  
Long die thy happy days before thy death ;  
And, after many lengthen'd hours of grief,  
Die neither mother, wife, nor England's queen !  
Rivers and Dorset, you were standers by,  
And so wast thou, Lord Hastings, when my son  
Was stabb'd with bloody daggers : God, I pray him,  
That none of you may live your natural age,  
But by some unlook'd accident cut off !

*Clou.* Have done thy charm, thou hateful  
wither'd hag !

*Q. Mar.* And leave out thee ? stay, dog, for thou  
shalt hear me.

If heaven have any grievous plague in store  
Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee,  
O ! let them keep it till thy sins be ripe,  
And then hurl down their indignation  
On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace.  
The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul !  
Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou livest,  
And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends !  
No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,  
Unless it be while some tormenting dream

Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils !  
Thou elvish-mark'd, abortive, rooting hog !  
Thou that wast seal'd in thy nativity  
The slave of nature and the son of hell !  
Thou slander of thy heavy mother's womb !  
Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins !  
Thou rag of honour ! thou detested—

*Glou.* Margaret.

*Q. Mar.* Richard !

*Glou.* Ha !

*Q. Mar.* I call thee not.

*Glou.* I cry thee mercy then, for I did think  
That thou hadst call'd me all these bitter names.

*Q. Mar.* Why, so I did ; but look'd for no reply.  
O ! let me make the period to my curse.

*Glou.* 'Tis done by me, and ends in 'Margaret.'

*Q. Eliz.* Thus have you breathed your curse  
against yourself.

*Q. Mar.* Poor painted queen, vain flourish of  
my fortune !

Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider,  
Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about ?  
Fool, fool ! thou whett'st a knife to kill thyself.  
The day will come that thou shalt wish for me  
To help thee curse this poisonous bunchback'd  
toad.

*Hast.* False-boding woman, end thy frantic curse,  
Lest to thy harm thou move our patience.

*Q. Mar.* Foul shame upon you ! you have all  
moved mine.

*Riv.* Were you well served you would be taught  
your duty.

*Q. Mar.* To serve me well, you all should do

me duty,

Teach me to be your queen, and you my subjects :  
O ! serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty.

*Dor.* Dispute not with her, she is lunatic

*Q. Mar.* Peace ! Master marquess, you are malapert :

Your fire-new stamp of honour is scarce current.

O ! that your young nobility could judge

What 't were to lose it, and be miserable.

They that stand high have many blasts to shake them,

And if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.

*Glou.* Good counsel, marry : learn it, learn it, marquess.

*Dor.* It touches you, my lord, as much as me.

*Glou.* Ay, and much more ; but I was born so high,

Our aery buildeth in the cedar's top,

And dallies with the wind, and scorns the sun.

*Q. Mar.* And turns the sun to shade ; alas ! alas !

Witness my son, now in the shade of death ;

Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy wrath

Hath in eternal darkness folded up.

Your aery buildeth in our aery's nest.

O God ! that seest it, do not suffer it ;

As it was won with blood, lost be it so !

*Buck.* Peace, peace ! for shame, if not for charity.

*Q. Mar.* Usage neither charity nor shame to me :

Uncharitably with me have you dealt,

And shamefully my hopes by you are butcher'd.

My charity is outrage, life my shame ;

And in that shame still live my sorrow's rage !

*Buck.* Have done, have done.

*Q. Mar.* O princely Buckingham ! I'll kiss thy hand,  
In sign of league and amity with thee :  
Now fair befall thee and thy noble house !  
Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,  
Nor thou within the compass of my curse.

*Buck.* Nor no one here ; for curses never pass  
The lips of those that breathe them in the air.

*Q. Mar.* I will not think but they ascend the sky,  
And there awake God's gentle-sleeping peace.  
O Buckingham ! take heed of yonder dog :  
Look, when he fawns, he bites ; and when he bites,  
His venom tooth will rankle to the death :  
Have not to do with him, beware of him ;  
Sin, death and hell have set their marks on him,  
And all their ministers attend on him.

*Glou.* What doth she say, my Lord of Buckingham !

*Buck.* Nothing that I respect, my gracious lord.

*Q. Mar.* What ! dost thou scorn me for my gentle counsel,  
And soothe the devil that I warn thee from ?  
O ! but remember this another day,  
When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow,  
And say poor Margaret was a prophetess.  
Live each of you the subjects to his hate,  
And he to yours, and all of you to God's ! [*Erit.*]

*Hast.* My hair doth stand on end to hear her curses.

*Riv.* And so doth mine. I muse why she's at liberty.

*Glou.* I cannot blame her : by God's holy mother,  
She hath had too much wrong, and I repent

My part thereof that I have done to her.

*Q. Eliz.* I never did her any, to my knowledge.

*Glou.* Yet you have all the vantage of her wrong.  
I was too hot to do somebody good,  
That is too cold in thinking of it now.

Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repaid ;

He is frank'd up to fattening for his pains :

God pardon them that are the cause thereof !

*Riv.* A virtuous and a Christian-like conclusion,  
To pray for them that have done scath to us.

*Glou.* So do I ever, [*Aside.*] being well advis'd ;  
For had I curs'd now, I had curs'd myself.

*Enter CATESBY.*

*Cates.* Madam, his majesty doth call for you ;  
And for your grace ; and you, my noble lords

*Q. Eliz.* Catesby, I come. Lords, will you go  
with me ?

*Riv.* We wait upon your grace.

• [*Exeunt all but GLOUCESTER.*

*Glou.* I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.  
The secret mischiefs that I set abroad  
I lay unto the grievous charge of others.  
Clarence, whom I, indeed, have cast in darkness,  
I do beweepe to many simple gulls ;  
Namely, to Stanley, Hastings, Buckingham ;  
And say it is the queen and her allies  
That stir the king against the duke my brother.  
Now they believe it ; and withal whet me  
To be reveng'd on Rivers, Vaughan, Grey :  
But then I sigh, and, with a piece of scripture,  
Tell them that God bids us do good for evil :  
And thus I clothe my naked villany

With old odd ends stol'n forth of holy writ,  
And seem a saint when most I play the devil.

*Enter two Murderers.*

But soft ! here come my executioners.  
How now, my hardy, stout, resolved mates !  
Are you now going to dispatch this thing ?

*First Murd.* We are, my lord ; and come to  
have the warrant,  
That we may be admitted where he is.

*Glou.* Well thought upon ; I have it here about  
me. *[Gives the warrant.]*

When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.  
But, sirs, be sudden in the execution,  
Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead ;  
For Clarence is well-spoken, and perhaps  
May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.

*First Murd.* Tut, tut ! my lord, we will not  
stand to prate ;

Talkers are no good doers : be assured  
We go to use our hands and not our tongues.

*Glou.* Your eyes drop millstones, when fools'  
eyes fall tears :

I like you, lads ; about your business straight ;  
Go, go, dispatch

*First Murd.* We will, my noble lord.

*[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV. *The same. The Tower.*

*Enter CLARENCE and BRAKENBURY.*

*Brak.* Why looks your grace so heavily to-day ?  
*Clar.* O ! I have pass'd a miserable night,

So full of ugly sights, of ghastly dreams,  
That, as I am a Christian faithful man,  
I would not spend another such a night,  
Though 't were to buy a world of happy days,  
So full of dismal terror was the time

*Brak.* What was your dream, my lord ? I pray  
you, tell me

*Clar.* Methoughts that I had broken from the  
Tower,

And was embark'd to cross to Burgundy ;  
And in my company my brother Gloucester,  
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk  
Upon the hatches : thence we look'd toward  
England,

And cited up a thousand heavy times,  
During the wars of York and Lancaster  
That had befall'n us. As we pac'd along  
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,  
Methought that Gloucester stumbled ; and, in  
falling,

Struck me, that thought to stay him, overboard,  
Into the tumbling billows of the main.  
Lord, Lord ! methought what pain it was to  
drown :

What dreadful noise of waters in mine ears !  
What ugly sights of death within mine eyes !  
Methought I saw a thousand fearful wrecks ;  
A thousand men that fishes gnaw'd upon ;  
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,  
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,  
All scatter'd in the bottom of the sea.  
Some lay in dead men's skulls ; and in those holes  
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,



As 't were in scorn of eyes, reflecting gems,  
That woo'd the slimy bottom of the deep,  
And mock'd the dead bones that lay scatter'd by.

*Brak.* Had you such leisure in the time of death  
To gaze upon these secrets of the deep?

*Clar.* Methought I had; and often did I strive  
To yield the ghost; but still the envious flood  
Kept in my soul, and would not let it forth  
To find the empty, vast, and wandering air;  
But smother'd it within my panting bulk,  
Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.

*Brak.* Awak'd you not with this sore agony?

*Clar.* No, no, my dream was lengthen'd after  
life;

O! then began the tempest to my soul.  
I pass'd, methought, the melancholy flood,  
With that sour ferryman which poets write of,  
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.  
The first that there did greet my stranger soul,  
Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick,  
Who cried aloud, 'What scourge for perjury  
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?'  
And so he vanish'd: then came wandering by  
A shadow like an angel, with bright hair  
Dabbled in blood; and he shriek'd out aloud,  
'Clarence is come; false, fleeting, perjured  
Clarence,

That stabb'd me in the field by Tewksbury;  
Seize on him! Furies, take him unto torment.'  
With that, methought, a legion of foul fiends  
Environ'd me, and howled in mine ears  
Such hideous cries, that with the very noise  
I trembling wak'd, and for a season after

Could not believe but that I was in hell,  
Such terrible impression made my dream.

*Brak.* No marvel, lord, though it affrighted  
you ;

I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

*Clar.* O Brakenbury ! I have done those things  
That now bear evidence against my soul,  
For Edward's sake ; and see how he requites me.  
O God ! if my deep prayers cannot appease thee,  
But thou wilt be avenged on my misdeeds,  
Yet execute thy wrath in me alone :

O ! spare my guiltless wife and my poor children.  
I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me ;  
My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep

*Brak.* I will, my lord. God give your grace  
good rest ! [CLARENCE sleeps.

Sorrow breaks seasons and reposing hours,  
Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide night.  
Princes have but their titles for their glories,  
An outward honour for an inward toil ;  
And, for unfelt imaginations,  
They often feel a world of restless cares :  
So that, between their titles and low names,  
There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

*Enter the two Murderers.*

*First Murd.* Ho ! who's here ?

*Brak.* What would'st thou, fellow ? and how  
camest thou hither ?

*First Murd.* I would speak with Clarence, and  
I came hither on my legs.

*Brak.* What ! so brief ?

*Second Murd.* 'Tis better, sir, than to be tedious.

Let him see our commission and talk no more.

[*A paper delivered to BRAKENBURY, who reads it.*]

*Brak* I am, in this, commanded to deliver  
The noble Duke of Clarence to your hands:  
I will not reason what is meant hereby,  
Because I will be guiltless of the meaning.  
'There lies the duke asleep, and there the keys.  
I'll to the king; and signify to him  
That thus I have resign'd to you my charge.

*First Murd* You may, sir; 'tis a point of wisdom. fare you well. [*Exit BRAKENBURY.*]

*Second Murd.* What! shall we stab him as he sleeps?

*First Murd* No; he'll say 't was done cowardly, when he wakes.

*Second Murd* When he wakes! why fool, he shall never wake till the judgement-day.

*First Murd.* Why, then he'll say we stabbed him sleeping.

*Second Murd.* The urging of that word 'judgement' hath bred a kind of remorse in me.

*First Murd.* What! art thou afraid?

*Second Murd.* Not to kill him, having a warrant for it; but to be damned for killing him, from the which no warrant can defend us.

*First Murd.* I thought thou hadst been resolute.

*Second Murd* So I am, to let him live.

*First Murd.* Back to the Duke of Gloucester, tell him so.

*Second Murd.* I pray thee, stay a while : I hope my holy humour will change ; 't was wont to hold me but while one would tell twenty

*First Murd.* How dost thou feel thyself now ?

*Second Murd.* Some certain dregs of conscience are yet within me.

*First Murd.* Remember our reward when the deed's done.

*Second Murd.* 'Zounds ! he dies. I had forgot the reward.

*First Murd.* Where's thy conscience now ?

*Second Murd.* In the Duke of Gloucester's purse.

*First Murd.* So, when he opens his purse to give us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

*Second Murd.* 'Tis no matter, let it go. there's few or none will entertain it.

*First Murd.* What if it come to thee again ?

• *Second Murd.* I'll not meddle with it ; it makes a man a coward, a man cannot steal, but it accuseth him ; a man cannot swear, but it checks him ; a man cannot lie with his neighbour's wife, but it detects him : 'tis a blushing shamefaced spirit, that mutines in a man's bosom, it fills a man full of obstacles ; it made me once restore a purse of gold that I found, it beggars any man that keeps it, it is turned out of all towns and cities for a dangerous thing, and every man that means to live well endeavours to trust to himself and live without it.

*First Murd.* 'Zounds ! it is even now at my elbow, persuading me not to kill the duke.

*Second Murd.* Take the devil in thy mind, and

believe him not: he would insinuate with thee but to make thee sigh.

*First Murd.* I am strong-framed; he cannot prevail with me.

*Second Murd.* Spoke like a tall fellow that respects his reputation. Come, shall we to this gear?

*First Murd.* Take him over the costard with the hilt of thy sword, and then throw him in the malmsey-butt in the next room.

*Second Murd.* O excellent device! and make a sop of him.

*First Murd.* Soft! he wakes.

*Second Murd.* Strike.

*First Murd.* No, we'll reason with him.

*Clar.* Where art thou, keeper? give me a cup of wine.

*First Murd.* You shall have wine enough, my lord, anon.

*Clar.* In God's name, what art thou?

*First Murd.* A man, as you are.

*Clar.* But not, as I am, royal.

*First Murd.* Nor you, as we are, loyal.

*Clar.* Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are humble.

*First Murd.* My voice is now the king's, my looks mine own.

*Clar.* How darkly and how deadly dost thou speak!

Your eyes do menace me: why look you pale?  
Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

*Both Murd.* To, to, to—

*Clar.* To murder me!

*Both Murd.* Ay, ay.

*Clar.* You scarcely have the hearts to tell me so,  
And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it.  
Wherein, my friends, have I offended you?

*First Murd.* Offended us you have not, but the  
king.

*Clar.* I shall be reconciled to him again.

*Second Murd.* Never, my lord; therefore prepare to die.

*Clar.* Are you call'd forth from out a world of  
men

To slay the innocent? What is my offence?  
Where are the evidence that do accuse me?  
What lawful quest have given their verdict up  
Unto the frowning judge? or who pronounced  
The bitter sentence of poor Clarence' death?  
Before I be convict by course of law,  
To threaten me with death is most unlawful.  
I charge you, as you hope to have redemption  
By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins,  
That you depart and lay no hands on me;  
The deed you undertake is damnable.

*First Murd.* What we will do, we do upon  
command.

*Second Murd.* And he that hath commanded is  
the king.

*Clar.* Erronccous vassal! the great King of  
kings

Hath in the table of His law commanded  
That thou shalt do no murder: will you then  
Spurn at his edict and fulfil a man's?  
Take heed; for he holds vengeance in his hand,  
To hurl upon their heads that break his law.

*Second Murd.* And that same vengeance doth  
he hurl on thee,  
For false forswearing and for murder too:  
Thou didst receive the sacrament to fight  
In quarrel of the house of Lancaster.

*First Murd.* And, like a traitor to the name of  
God,  
Didst break that vow, and with thy treacherous  
blade  
Unripp'dst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.

*Second Murd.* Whom thou wast sworn to  
cherish and defend.

*First Murd.* How canst thou urge God's dread-  
ful law to us,  
When thou hast broke it in such dear degree?

*Clar.* Alas! for whose sake did I that ill deed?  
For Edward, for my brother, for his sake:  
He sends you not to murder me for this,  
For in that sin he is as deep as I.  
If God will be avenged for that deed,  
O! know you yet, he doth it publicly:  
Take not the quarrel from His powerful arm;  
He needs no indirect or lawless course  
To cut off those that have offended Him.

*First Murd.* Who made thee then a bloody  
minister,  
When gallant-springing, brave Plantagenet,  
That princely novice, was struck dead by thee?

*Clar.* My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.

*First Murd.* Thy brother's love, our duty, and  
thy fault,  
Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.

*Clar.* If you do love my brother, hate not me;

I am his brother, and I love him well,  
If you be hired for meed, go back again,  
And I will send you to my brother Gloucester,  
Who shall reward you better for my life  
Than Edward will for tidings of my death.

*Second Murd.* You are deceived, your brother  
Gloucester hates you.

*Clar.* O, no! he loves me, and he holds me dear:  
Go you to him from me.

*Both Murd.* Ay, so we will.

*Clar.* Tell him, when that our princely father  
York

Bless'd his three sons with his victorious arm,  
And charged us from his soul to love each other,  
He little thought of this divided friendship.  
Bid Gloucester think on this, and he will weep.

*First Murd.* Ay, millstones; as he lesson'd us  
to weep

*Clar.* O! do not slander him, for he is kind.

*First Murd.* Right,  
As snow in harvest. Thou deceivest thyself  
'Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

*Clar.* It cannot be; for he bewept my fortune,  
And hugg'd me in his arms, and swore, with sobs,  
That he would labour my delivery.

*First Murd.* Why, so he doth, now he delivers  
you  
From this earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.

*Second Murd.* Make peace with God, for you  
must die, my lord.

*Clar.* Have you that holy feeling in your souls,  
To counsel me to make my peace with God,  
And are you yet to your own souls so blind,



That you will war with God by murdering me?  
O! sirs, consider, they that set you on  
To do this deed will hate you for the deed.

*Second Murd.* What shall we do?

*Clar.* Relent and save your souls.

*First Murd.* Relent! 'tis cowardly and  
womanish.

*Clar.* Not to relent, is beastly, savage, devilish.  
Which of you, if you were a prince's son,  
Being pent from liberty, as I am now,  
If two such murderers as yourselves came to you,  
Would not entreat for life?

My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks;

O! if thine eye be not a flatterer,

Come thou on my side, and entreat for me,

As you would beg, were you in my distress:

A begging prince what beggar pities not?

*Second Murd.* Look behind you, my lord.

*First Murd.* Take that, and that: [*Stabs him.*

If all this will not do,

I'll drown you in the malnsey-butt within.

[*Exit, with the body.*

*Second Murd.* A bloody deed, and desperately  
dispatch'd!

How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands  
Of this most grievous murder.

*Re-enter First Murderer.*

*First Murd.* How now! what mean'st thou,  
that thou help'st me not?

By heaven, the duke shall know how slack thou  
art.

*Second Murd.* I would he knew that I had saved  
his brother!

Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say;  
For I repent me that the duke is slain. [*Exit.*]

*First Murd.* So do not I. go, coward as thou art.  
Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole,  
Till that the duke give order for his burial:  
And when I have my meed, I will away;  
For this will out, and here I must not stay. [*Exit.*]

## ACT II.

SCENE I. *London. A Room in the Palace.*

*Enter King EDWARD, sick, Queen ELIZABETH,  
DORSET, RIVERS, HASTINGS, BUCKINGHAM,  
GREY, and others.*

*K. Edw.* Why, so: now have I done a good  
day's work.

You peers, continue this united league:  
I every day expect an embassy  
From my Redeemer to redeem me hence;  
And now in peace my soul shall part to heaven,  
Since I have set my friends at peace on earth.  
Rivers and Hastings, take each other's hand,  
Dissemble not your hatred, swear your love.

*Riv.* By heaven, my heart is purged from  
grudging hate;  
And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

*Hast.* So thrive I, as I truly swear the like!

*K. Edw.* Take heed you dally not before your  
king;

Lest he that is the supreme King of Kings  
Confound your hidden falsehood, and award  
Either of you to be the other's end.

*Hast.* So prosper I, as I swear perfect love!

*Riv.* And I, as I love Hastings with my heart!

*K. Edw.* Madam, yourself are not exempt in  
this,

Nor you, son Dorset, Buckingham, nor you;  
You have been factious one against the other.  
Wife, love Lord Hastings, let him kiss your hand;  
And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

*Q. Eliz.* Here, Hastings; I will never more  
remember

Our former hatred, so thrive I and mine!

*K. Edw.* Dorset, embrace him; Hastings, love  
lord marquess.

*Dor.* This interchange of love, I here protest,  
Upon my part shall be inviolable.

*Hast.* And so swear I, my lord. [*They embrace*]

*K. Edw.* Now, princely Buckingham, seal thou  
this league

With thy embracements to my wife's allies,  
And make me happy in your unity.

*Buck.* [*To the Queen*] Whenever Buckingham  
doth turn his hate

Upon your grace, but with all duteous love  
Doth cherish you and yours, God punish me  
With hate in those where I expect most love!  
When I have most need to employ a friend,  
And most assured that he is a friend,  
Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile,  
Be he unto me! This do I beg of heaven,  
When I am cold in love to you or yours.

[*They embrace.*]

*K. Edw.* A pleasing cordial, princely Bucking-

thy vow unto my sickly heart.

There wanteth now our brother Gloucester here  
To make the perfect period of this peace.

*Buck.* And, in good time, here comes the noble  
duke.

*Enter GLOUCESTER.*

*Glou.* Good morrow to my sovereign king and  
queen ;

And, princely peers, a happy time of day !

*K. Edw.* Happy, indeed, as we have spent the  
day.

Gloucester, we have done deeds of charity ;  
Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,  
Between these swelling wrong-incensed peers

*Glou.* A blessed labour, my most sovereign lord.  
Among this princely heap, if any here,  
By false intelligence, or wrong surmise,  
Hold me a foe ;

If I unwittingly, or in my rage,  
Have aught committed that is hardly borne  
By any in this presence, I desire  
To reconcile me to his friendly peace :

'Tis death to me to be at enmity ;  
I hate it, and desire all good men's love.

First, madam, I entreat true peace of you,  
Which I will purchase with my duteous service  
Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham,  
If ever any grudge were lodged between us ;  
Of you, Lord Rivers, and, Lord Grey, of you,

That all without desert have frown'd on me;  
Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen; indeed, of a<sup>11</sup>  
I do not know that Englishman alive  
With whom my soul is any jot at odds  
More than the infant that is born to-night:  
I thank my God for my humility.

*Q. Eliz.* A holy day shall this be kept hereafter:  
I would to God all strifes were well compounded.  
My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness  
To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

*Glou.* Why, madam, have I offer'd love for this,  
To be so flouted in this royal presence?  
Who knows not that the gentle duke is dead?

[*They all start.*

You do him injury to scorn his corse.

*K. Edw.* Who knows not he is dead! who knows  
he is?

*Q. Eliz.* All-seeing heaven, what a world is this!

*Buck.* Look I so pale, Lord Dorset, as the rest?

*Dor.* Ay, my good lord; and no man in the  
presence

But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks.

*K. Edw.* Is Clarence dead? the order was  
reversed.

*Glou.* But he, poor soul, by your first order  
died,

And that a winged Mercury did bear;  
Some tardy cripple bare the countermand,  
That came too lag to see him buried.  
God grant that some, less noble and less loyal,  
Nearer in bloody thoughts, but not in blood,  
Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did,  
And yet go current from suspicion.

*Enter STANLEY.*

~~Stan.~~ A boon, my sovereign, for my service done !

*K. Edw.* I pray thee, peace : my soul is full of sorrow.

*Stan.* I will not rise, unless your highness hear me.

*K. Edw.* Then speak at once what is it thou demand'st.

*Stan.* The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's life ;  
Who slew to-day a riotous gentleman  
Lately attendant on the Duke of Norfolk.

*K. Edw.* Have a tongue to doom my brother's death,

And shall that tongue give pardon to a slave ?  
My brother kull'd no man, his fault was thought,  
And yet his punishment was bitter death.  
Who sued to me for him ? who, in my wrath,  
Kneel'd at my feet, and bade me be advised ?  
Who spoke of brotherhood ? who spoke of love ?  
Who told me how the poor soul did forsake  
The mighty Warwick, and did fight for me ?  
Who told me, in the field at Tewksbury,  
When Oxford had me down, he rescued me  
And said, ' Dear brother, live, and be a king ' ?  
Who told me, when we both lay in the field  
Frozen almost to death, how he did lap me  
Even in his garments ; and did give himself,  
All thin and naked, to the numb cold night ?  
All this from my remembrance brutish wrath  
Sinfully pluck'd, and not a man of you  
Had so much grace to put it in my mind.

But when your carters or your waiting-vassals  
Have done a drunken slaughter, and defaced  
The precious image of our dear Redeemer,  
You straight are on your knees for pardon,  
pardon ;

And I, unjustly too, must grant it you ;  
But for my brother not a man would speak,  
Nor I, ungracious, speak unto myself  
For him, poor soul. The proudest of you all  
Have been beholding to him in his life,  
Yet none of you would once beg for his life.  
O God ! I fear thy justice will take hold  
On me and you and mine and yours for this.  
Come, Hastings, help me to my closet. O ! poor  
Clarence.

[*Exeunt* KING EDWARD, QUEEN ELIZABETH,  
HASTINGS, RIVERS, DORSET, and GREY.

*Glou.* This is the fruit of rashness. Mark'd you  
not

How that the guilty kindred of the queen  
Look'd pale when they did hear of Clarence'  
death ?

O ! they did urge it still unto the king :  
God will revenge it Come, lords ; will you go  
To comfort Edward with our company ?

*Buck.* We wait upon your grace. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II. *The Same. A Room in the Palace.*

*Enter the Duchess of YORK, with the two children  
of CLARENCE.*

*Boy.* Good grandam, tell us, is our father dead ?

*Duch.* No, boy.

*Boy.* Why do you wring your hands, and beat  
your breast;

And cry 'O Clarence, my unhappy son!'?

*Girl.* Why do you look on us, and shake your  
head,

And call us orphans, wretches, castaways,  
If that our noble father be alive?

*Duch.* My pretty cousins, you mistake me  
much;

I do lament the sickness of the king,  
As loth to lose him, not your father's death;  
It were lost sorrow to wail one that's lost

*Boy.* Then, grandam, you conclude that he is  
dead.

The king mine uncle is to blame for it:  
God will revenge it; whom I will importune  
With earnest prayers all to that effect.

• *Girl.* And so will I.

*Duch.* Peace, children, peace! the king doth  
love you well:

Incapable and shallow innocents,  
You cannot guess who caused your father's death. •

*Boy.* Grandam, we can; for my good uncle  
Gloucester

Told me, the king, provoked to it by the queen,  
Devised impeachments to imprison him:  
And when my uncle told me so, he wept,  
And pitied me, and kindly kiss'd my cheek;  
Bade me rely on him as on my father,  
And he would love me dearly as his child.

*Duch.* Ah! that deceit should steal such gentle  
shape,



And with a virtuous vizard hide deep vice.  
He is my son, ay, and therein my shame,  
Yet from my dugs he drew not this deceit.

*Boy* Think you my uncle did dissemble,  
    grandain?

*Duch* Ay, boy.

*Boy*. I cannot think it. Hark! what noise is  
    this?

*Enter* QUEEN ELIZABETH, with her hair about her  
    ears; RIVERS and DORSET following her.

*Q. Eliz.* Oh! who shall hinder me to wail and  
    weep,

To chide my fortune, and torment myself?  
I'll join with black despair against my soul,  
And to myself become an enemy.

*Duch.* What means this scene of rude im-  
    patience?

*Q. Eliz.* To make an act of tragic violence:  
Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead!  
Why grow the branches now the root is wither'd?  
Why wither not the leaves that want their sap?  
If you will live, lament; if die, be brief,  
That our swift-winged souls may catch the king's;  
Or, like obedient subjects, follow him  
To his new kingdom of perpetual rest.

*Duch.* Ah! so much interest have I in thy  
    sorrow

As I had title in thy noble husband.  
I have bewept a worthy husband's death,  
And lived with looking on his images;  
But now two mirrors of his princely semblance  
Are crack'd in pieces by malignant death,

And I for comfort have but one false glass,  
That grieves me when I see my shame in him.  
Thou art a widow; yet thou art a mother,  
And hast the comfort of thy children left thee:  
But death hath snatch'd my husband from mine  
arms,

And pluck'd two crutches from my feeble limbs,  
Clarence and Edward O! what cause have I,  
Thine being but a moiety of my grief,  
To overgo thy plaints and drown thy cries.

*Boy.* Good aunt, you wept not for our father's  
death;

How can we aid you with our kindred tears?

*Girl.* Our father's distress was left unmoan'd;  
Your widow-dolour likewise be unwept

*Q. Eliz.* Give me no help in lamentation;  
I am not barren to bring forth complaints  
All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,  
That I, being govern'd by the watery moon,  
May send forth plenteous tears to drown the  
world!

Ah! for my husband, for my dear lord Edward.

*Chil.* Ah! for our father, for our dear lord  
Clarence.

*Duch.* Alas! for both, both mine, Edward and  
Clarence

*Q. Eliz.* What stay had I but Edward? and  
he's gone.

*Chil.* What stay had we but Clarence? and he's  
gone.

*Duch.* What stays had I but they? and they  
are gone.

*Q. Eliz.* Was never widow had so dear a loss.

*Chil.* Were never orphans had so dear a loss. •

*Duch.* Was never mother had so dear a loss.

Alas ! I am the mother of these griefs :

Their woes are parcell'd, mine are general.

She for an Edward weeps, and so do I ;

I for a Clarence weep, so doth not she

These babes for Clarence weep, and so do I ;

I for an Edward weep, so do not they :

Alas ! you three on me, threefold distress'd,

Pour all your tears, I am your sorrow's nurse,

And I will pamper it with lamentation.

*Dor.* Comfort, dear mother. God is much displeased

That you take with unthankfulness his doing.

In common worldly things 't is call'd ungrateful

With dull unwillingness to repay a debt

Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent ;

Much more to be thus opposite with heaven,

For it requires the royal debt it lent you.

*Riv.* Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,  
Of the young prince your son send straight for  
him ;

Let him be crown'd ; in him your comfort lives.

Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave,

And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.

*Enter* GLOUCESTER, BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY,  
HASTINGS, RATCLIFF, *and others.*

*Glou.* Sister, have comfort : all of us have cause  
To wail the dimming of our shining star ;  
But none can cure their harms by wailing them.  
Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy ;

I did not see your grace : humbly on my knee

I crave your blessing.

*Duch.* God bless thee ! and put meekness in thy mind,

Love, charity, obedience, and true duty.

*Glou.* Amen ; [*Aside*] and make me die a good old man !

That is the butt-end of a mother's blessing ;

I marvel that her grace did leave it out.

*Buck.* You cloudy princes and heart-sorrowing peers,

That bear this mutual heavy load of moan,

Now cheer each other in each other's love.

Though we have sown our harvest of this king,

We are to reap the harvest of his son.

The broken rancour of your high-swoln hearts,

But lately splinter'd, knit, and join'd together,

Must gently be preserved, cherish'd, and kept :

Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,

Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fetch'd

Hither to London, to be crown'd our king.

*Riv.* Why with some little train, my Lord of Buckingham ?

*Buck.* Marry, my lord, lest, by a multitude,  
The new-heal'd wound of malice should break out ;  
Which would be so much the more dangerous,  
By how much the estate is green and yet un-  
govern'd ;

Where every horse bears his commanding rein,

And may direct his course as please himself,

As well the fear of harm, as harm apparent,

In my opinion, ought to be prevented.

*Glou.* I hope the king made peace with all of us ;

And the compact is firm and true in me.

*Riv.* And so in me ; and so, I think, in all :  
Yet, since it is but green, it should be put  
To no apparent likelihood of breach,  
Which haply by much company might be urged :  
Therefore I say with noble Buckingham,  
That it is meet so few should fetch the prince.

*Hast.* And so say I.

*Glou.* Then be it so ; and go we to determine  
Who they shall be that straight shall post to  
Ludlow.

Madam, and you, my mother, will you go  
To give your censures in this business ?

[*Exeunt all but BUCKINGHAM and GLOUCESTER.*]

*Buck.* My lord, whoever journeys to the prince,  
For God's sake, let not us two stay at home :  
For by the way I'll sort occasion,  
As index to the story we late talk'd of,  
To part the queen's proud kindred from the  
prince.

*Glou.* My other self, my counsel's consistory,  
My oracle, my prophet ! My dear cousin,  
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.  
Towards Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind.  
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *The Same. A Street.*

*Enter two Citizens, meeting.*

*First Cit* Good morrow, neighbour : whither

Away so fast ?

*Second Cit.* I promise you I scarcely know myself :

Hear you the news abroad ?

*First Cit.* Ay, that the king is dead.

*Second Cit.* Ill news, by 'r lady ; seldom comes the better :

I fear, I fear 't will prove a giddy world.

*Enter another Citizen.*

*Third Cit.* Neighbours, God speed !

*First Cit.* Give you good morrow, sir.

*Third Cit.* Doth the news hold of good King Edward's death ?

*Second Cit.* Ay, sir, it is too true ; God help the while !

*Third Cit.* Then, masters, look to see a troublous world.

*First Cit.* No, no ; by God's good grace his son shall reign.

*Third Cit.* Woe to that land that's govern'd by a child !

*Second Cit.* In him there is a hope of government,

That in his nonage council under him,  
And in his full and ripen'd years himself,  
No doubt, shall then and till then govern well

*First Cit.* So stood the state when Henry the Sixth

Was crown'd in Paris but at nine months old.

*Third Cit.* Stood the state so ? no, no, good friends, God wot ;

For then this land was famously enrich'd

With politic grave counsel ; then the king  
Had virtuous uncles to protect his grace.

*First Cit.* Why, so hath this, both by his father  
and mother.

*Third Cit.* Better it were they all came by his  
father,

Or by his father there were none at all ;  
For emulation, who shall now be nearest,  
Will touch us all too near, if God prevent not.  
O ! full of danger is the Duke of Gloucester ;  
And the queen's sons and brothers haught and  
proud .

And were they to be ruled, and not to rule,  
This sickly land might solace as before.

*First Cit.* Come, come, we fear the worst ; all  
will be well.

*Third Cit.* When clouds are seen, wise men put  
on their cloaks ;

When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand ;  
When the sun sets, who doth not look for night ?  
Untimely storms make men expect a dearth.  
All may be well ; but, if God sort it so,  
'Tis more than we deserve, or I expect.

*Second Cit.* Truly, the hearts of men are full of  
fear :

Ye cannot reason almost with a man  
That looks not heavily and full of dread.

*Third Cit.* Before the days of change, still is it  
so.

By a divine instinct men's minds mistrust  
Ensuing danger ; as by proof we see  
The water swell before a boisterous storm.  
But leave it all to God. Whither away ?

*Second Cit.* Marry, we were sent for to the justices.

*Third Cit.* And so was I: I'll bear you company.  
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV. *The Same. A Room in the Palace.*

*Enter the Archbishop of YORK, the young Duke of YORK, Queen ELIZABETH, and the Duchess of YORK.*

*Arch.* Last night, I hear, they lay at Northampton,

At Stony-Stratford they do rest to-night.

To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.

*Duch.* I long with all my heart to see the prince.  
I hope he is much grown since last I saw him.

*Q. Eliz.* But I hear, no; they say my son of York

Hath almost overta'en him in his growth.

*York.* Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

*Duch.* Why, my young cousin, it is good to grow.

*York.* Grandam, one night, as we did sit at supper,

My uncle Rivers talk'd how I did grow

More than my brother: 'Ay,' quoth my uncle Gloucester,

'Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace':

And since, methinks, I would not grow so fast,

Because sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.



*Duch.* Good faith, good faith, the saying did not hold

In him that did object the same to thee :  
He was the wretched st thing when he was young,  
So long a-growing and so leisurely,  
That, if his rule were true, he should be gracious.

*Arch.* And so, no doubt, he is, my gracious madam.

*Duch.* I hope he is ; but yet let mothers doubt.

*York.* Now, by my troth, if I had been remember'd,

I could have given my uncle's grace á flout,  
To touch his growth nearer than he touch'd mine.

*Duch.* How, my young York ? I pray thee, let me hear it.

*York.* Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast  
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old :  
'T was full two years ere I could get a tooth.

Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.

*Duch.* I pray thee, pretty York, who told thee this ?

*York.* Grandam, his nurse.

*Duch.* His nurse ! why, she was dead ere thou wast born.

*York.* If 't were not she, I cannot tell who told me

*Q Eliz.* A parlous boy : go to, you are too shrewd.

*Arch.* Good madam, be not angry with the child.

*Q Eliz.* Pitchers have ears.

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Arch.* Here comes a messenger. What news?

*Mess.* Such news, my lord, as grieves me to unfold.

*Q. Eliz.* How doth the prince?

*Mess.* Well, madam, and in health.

*Duch.* What is thy news then?

*Mess.* Lord Rivers and Lord Grey are sent to Pomfret,

With them Sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.

*Duch.* Who hath committed them?

*Mess.* The mighty dukes,  
Gloucester and Buckingham.

*Q. Eliz.* For what offence?

*Mess.* The sum of all I can, I have disclosed:  
Why or for what these nobles were committed  
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

*Q. Eliz.* Ay me! I see the ruin of my house.  
The tiger now hath seized the gentle hind;  
Insulting tyranny begins to jet  
Upon the innocent and aweless throne:  
Welcome, destruction, death, and massacre!  
I see, as in a map, the end of all.

*Duch.* Accursed and unquiet wrangling days,  
How many of you have mine eyes beheld!  
My husband lost his life to get the crown,  
And often up and down my sons were toss'd,  
For me to joy and weep their gain and loss:  
And being seated, and domestic broils  
Clean over-blown, themselves, the conquerors,  
Make war upon themselves; brother to brother,  
Blood to blood, self against self: O! preposterous  
And frantic outrage, end thy damned spleen;  
Or let me die, to look on earth no more.

*Q. Eliz.* Come, come, my boy ; we will to  
sanctuary.

*Madam,* farewell.

*Duch.* Stay, I will go with you.

*Q. Eliz.* You have no cause.

*Arch.* My gracious lady, go ;

And thither bear your treasure and your goods.

For my part, I'll resign unto your grace

'The seal I keep : and so betide to me

As well I tender you and all of yours !

Come ; I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.

' [Exeunt.]

### ACT III.

#### SCENE I. *London. A Street.*

*The trumpets sound Enter the Prince of WALES,  
GLOUCESTER, BUCKINGHAM, Cardinal BOUR-  
CHIER, CATESBY, and others.*

*Buck.* Welcome, sweet prince, to London, to  
your chamber.

' *Glou.* Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sove-  
reign :

The weary way hath made you melancholy.

*Prince.* No, uncle ; but our crosses on the way  
Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy :  
I want more uncles here to welcome me.

*Glou.* Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your  
years

Hath not yet dived into the world's deceit :

Nor more can you distinguish of a man

Than of his outward show ; which, God he knows,

Seldom or never jumpeth with the heart.

Those uncles which you want were dangerous ;  
Your grace attended to their sugar'd words,  
But look'd not on the poison of their hearts :  
God keep you from them, and from such false  
friends !

*Prince.* God keep me from false friends ! but  
they were none.

*Glov.* My lord, the Mayor of London comes to  
greet you.

*Enter the Lord Mayor and his train.*

*May.* God bless your grace with health and  
happy days !

*Prince.* I thank you, good my lord ; and thank  
you all.

I thought my mother and my brother York  
Would long ere this have met us on the way :  
Fie ! what a slug is Hastings, that he comes not  
To tell us whether they will come or no.

*Enter HASTINGS.*

*Buck.* And in good time here comes the  
sweating lord.

*Prince.* Welcome, my lord. What, will our  
mother come ?

*Hast.* On what occasion, God he knows, not I,  
The queen your mother, and your brother York,  
Have taken sanctuary · the tender prince  
Would fain have come with me to meet your

But by his mother was perforce withheld.

*Buck.* Fie! what an indirect and peevish course  
Is this of hers. Lord cardinal, will your grace  
Persuade the queen to send the Duke of York  
Unto his princely brother presently?  
If she deny, Lord Hastings, go with him,  
And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

*Card.* My Lord of Buckingham, if my weak  
oratory  
Can from his mother win the Duke of York,  
Anon expect him here; but if she be obdurate  
To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid  
We should infringe the holy privilege  
Of blessed sanctuary! not for all this land  
Would I be guilty of so great a sin.

*Buck.* You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord,  
Too ceremonious and traditional  
Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,  
You break not sanctuary in seizing him.  
The benefit thereof is always granted  
To those whose dealings have deserved the place,  
And those who have the wit to claim the place:  
This prince hath neither claim'd it nor deserved it;  
And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it:  
Then, taking him from thence that is not there,  
You break no privilege nor charter there.  
Oft have I heard of sanctuary men,  
But sanctuary children ne'er till now.

*Card.* My lord, you shall o'er-rule my mind for  
once.

Come on, Lord Hastings, will you go with me?

*Hast.* I go, my lord.

*Prince.* Good lords, make all the speedy haste  
you may.

[*Exeunt* Cardinal BOURCHIER, and HASTINGS.  
Say, uncle Gloucester, if our brother come,  
Where shall we sojourn till our coronation ?

*Glou.* Where it seems best unto your royal self.  
If I may counsel you, some day or two  
Your highness shall repose you at the Tower :  
Then where you please, and shall be thought most  
fit

For your best health and recreation.

*Prince.* I do not like the Tower, of any place.  
Did Julius Cæsar build that place, my lord ?

*Buck.* He did, my gracious lord, begin that  
place,

Which, since, succeeding ages have re-edified.

*Prince.* Is it upon record, or else reported  
Successively from age to age, he built it ?

*Buck.* Upon record, my gracious lord.

*Prince.* But say, my lord, it were not register'd,  
Methinks the truth should live from age to age,  
As't were retail'd to all posterity,  
Even to the general all-ending day.

*Glou.* [*Aside.*] So wise so young, they say,  
do never live long.

*Prince.* What say you, uncle ?

*Glou.* I say, without characters, fame lives long.

[*Aside.*] Thus, like the formal Vice, Iniquity,  
I moralize two meanings in one word

*Prince.* That Julius Cæsar was a famous man ;  
With what his valour did enrich his wit,  
His wit set down to make his valour live :  
Death makes no conquest of this conqueror,  
For now he lives in fame, though not in life.  
I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham,—

*Buck.* What, my gracious lord ?

*Prince.* An if I live until I be a man,  
I'll win our ancient right in France again,  
Or die a soldier, as I lived a king.

*Glou.* [*Aside.*] Short summers lightly have a  
forward spring.

*Enter YORK, HASTINGS, and Cardinal BOUR-  
CHIER.*

*Buck* Now, in good time, here comes the Duke  
of York.

*Prince.* Richard of York ! how fares our noble  
brother ?

*York.* Well, my dread lord ; so must I call you  
now.

*Prince* Ay, brother, to our grief, as it is yours :  
Too late he died that might have kept that title,  
Which by his death hath lost much majesty

*Glou* How fares our cousin, noble Lord of  
York ?

*York.* I thank you, gentle uncle. O ! my lord,  
You said that idle weeds are fast in growth :  
The prince my brother hath outgrown me far.

*Glou.* He hath, my lord.

*York.* And therefore is he idle ?

*Glou.* O ! my fair cousin, I must not say so.

*York.* Then he is more beholding to you  
than I.

*Glou.* He may command me as my sovereign ;  
But you have power in me as in a kinsman.

*York.* I pray you, uncle, give me this dagger.

*Glou.* My dagger, little cousin ? with all my  
heart.

*Prince.* A beggar, brother ?

*York.* Of my kind uncle, that I know will give ;

And being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

*Glou.* A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin.

*York.* A greater gift ! O ! that's the sword to it.

*Glou.* Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough.

*York.* O ! then, I see, you'll part but with light gifts ;

In weightier things you'll say a Beggar nay.

*Glou.* It is too weighty for your grace to wear.

*York.* I weigh it lightly, were it heavier.

*Glou.* What ! would you have my weapon, little lord ?

*York.* I would, that I might thank you as you call me.

*Glou.* How ?

*York.* Little.

*Prince.* My Lord of York will still be cross in talk.

Uncle, your grace knows how to bear with him.

*York.* You mean, to bear me, not to bear with me.

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me.

Because that I am little, like an ape,

He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders.

*Buck.* With what a sharp-provided wit he reasons !

To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle,  
He prettily and aptly taunts himself :



So cunning and so young is wonderful.

*Glou.* My lord, will't please you pass along?  
Myself and my good cousin Buckingham  
Will to your mother, to entreat of her  
To meet you at the Tower and welcome you.

*York.* What! will you go unto the Tower, my lord?

*Prince.* My lord protector needs will have it so.

*York.* I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

*Glou.* Why, what should you fear?

*York.* Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost:  
My grandam told me he was murder'd there.

*Prince.* I fear no uncles dead.

*Glou.* Nor none that live, I hope.

*Prince.* An if they live, I hope I need not fear.

But come, my lord; and with a heavy heart,  
Thinking on them, go I unto the Tower.

[*A Sennet. Exeunt all but GLOUCESTER,  
BUCKINGHAM, and CATESBY.*]

*Buck.* Think you, my lord, this little prating  
York

Was not incensed by his subtle mother  
To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?

*Glou.* No doubt, no doubt. O! 't is a parlous  
boy;

Bold, quick, ingenuous, forward, capable:  
He's all the mother's, from the top to toe.

*Buck.* Well, let them rest. Come hither,  
Catesby; thou art sworn

As deeply to effect what we intend

As closely to conceal what we impart.

Thou know'st our reasons urged upon the way:

What think'st thou ? is it not an easy matter  
To make William Lord Hastings of our mind,  
For the instalment of this noble duke  
In the seat royal of this famous isle ?

*Cates.* He for his father's sake so loves the  
prince,  
That he will not be won to aught against him.

*Buck.* What think'st thou then of Stanley ?  
what will he ?

*Cates.* He will do all in all as Hastings doth.

*Buck.* Well then, no more but this : go, gentle  
Catesby,

And, as it were far off, sound thou Lord Hastings,  
How he doth stand affected to our purpose ;  
And summon him to-morrow to the Tower,  
To sit about the coronation.

If thou dost find him tractable to us,  
Encourage him, and show him all our reasons :

If he be leaden, icy-cold, unwilling,  
Be thou so too, and so break off your talk,  
And give us notice of his inclination ;  
For we to-morrow hold divided councils,  
Wherein thyself shalt highly be employ'd.

*Glou.* Commend me to Lord William : tell him,  
Catesby,

His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries  
To-morrow are let blood at Pomfret-castle ;  
And bid my lord, for joy of this good news,  
Give Mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.

*Buck.* Good Catesby, go, effect this business  
soundly.

*Cates.* My good lords both, with all the heed I  
can.

*Glou.* Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?

*Cates.* You shall, my lord.

*Glou.* At Crosby-place, there shall you find us both.

[*Exit* CATESBY.]

*Buck.* Now, my lord, what shall we do if we perceive

Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

*Glou.* Chop off his head; something we will determine.

And, look, when I am king, claim thou of me  
The earldom of Hereford, and the moveables  
Whereof the king my brother stood possess'd.

*Buck.* I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

*Glou.* And look to have it yielded with all kindness

Come, let us sup betimes, that afterwards

We may digest our complots in some form.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *The Same. Before Lord HASTINGS' House.*

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Mess.* My lord, my lord! [*Knocking.*]

*Hast.* [*Within.*] Who knocks?

*Mess.* One from the Lord Stanley.

*Enter HASTINGS.*

*Hast.* What is't o'clock?

*Mess.* Upon the stroke of four.

*Hast.* Cannot thy master sleep these tedious nights?

*Mess.* So it should seem by that I have to say.  
First, he commends him to your noble self.

*Hast.* What then?

*Mess.* Then certifies your lordship, that this night

He dreamt the boar had raised off his helm :  
Besides, he says there are two councils held ;  
And that may be determined at the one  
Which may make you and him to rue at the  
other. •

Therefore he sends to know your lordship's  
pleasure,

If you will presently take horse with him,  
And with all speed post with him toward the  
north,

To shun the danger that his soul divines.

• *Hast.* Go, fellow, go, return unto thy lord ;

Bid him not fear the separated councils :

His honour and myself are at the one,

And at the other is my good friend Catesby ;

Where nothing can proceed that toucheth us

Whereof I shall not have intelligence.

Tell him his fears are shallow, wanting instance :

And for his dreams, I wonder he's so simple

To trust the mockery of unquiet slumbers.

To fly the boar before the boar pursues,

Were to incense the boar to follow us

And make pursuit where he did mean no chase.

Go, bid thy master rise and come to me ;

And we will both together to the Tower,

Where, he shall see, the boar will use us kindly.

*Mess.* I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you say. [Exit.

*Enter CATESBY.*

*Cates.* Many good morrows to my noble lord !

*Hast.* Good morrow, Catesby ; you are early stirring.

What news, what news, in this our tottering state ?

*Cates.* It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord ;  
And I believe will never stand upright

Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

*Hast.* How ? wear the garland ! dost thou mean the crown ?

*Cates.* Ay, my good lord.

*Hast.* I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders

Before I'll see the crown so foul misplaced.

But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it ?

*Cates.* Ay, on my life, and hopes to find you forward

Upon his party, for the gain thereof .

And thereupon he sends you this good news,

That this same very day your enemies,

The kindred of the queen, must die at Pomfret.

*Hast.* Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,  
Because they have been still my adversaries ;  
But, that I'll give my voice on Richard's side,  
To bar my master's heirs in true descent,  
God knows I will not do it, to the death.

*Cates.* God keep your lordship in thy gracious mind !

*Hast.* But I shall laugh at this a twelvemonth hence,

That they which brought me in my master's hate,

I live to look upon their tragedy.

Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older,  
I'll send some packing that yet think not on't.

*Cates.* 'Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,  
When men are unprepared and look not for it.

*Hast.* O monstrous, monstrous! and so falls it  
out

With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey; and so 't will do  
With some men else, who think themselves as safe  
As thou and I; who, as thou know'st, are dear  
To princely Richard and to Buckingham.

*Cates.* The princes both make high account of  
you;

[*Aside.*] For they account his head upon the  
bridge

*Hast.* I know they do, and I have well deserved  
it.

*Enter STANLEY.*

Come on, come on; where is your boar-spear,  
man?

Fear you the boar, and go so unprovided?

*Stan.* My lord, good morrow; good morrow;

*Catesby:*

You may jest on, but, by the holy rood,  
I do not like these several councils, I.

*Hast.* My lord, I hold my life as dear as yours;  
And never in my days, I do protest,  
Was it so precious to me as 't is now.

Think you but that I know our state secure  
I would be so triumphant as I am?

*Stan.* The lords at Pomfret, when they rode  
from London,

Were jocund and supposed their state was sure,  
 And they indeed had no cause to mistrust;  
 But yet you see how soon the day o'ercast.  
 This sudden stab of rancour I misdoubt:  
 Pray God, I say, I prove a needless coward!  
 What, shall we toward the Tower? the day is  
 spent.

*Hast.* Come, come, have with you. Wot you  
 what, my lord?

To-day the lords you talk of are beheaded.

*Stan.* They, for their truth, might better wear  
 their heads

Than some that have accused them wear their hats.  
 But come, my lord, let's away.

*Enter a Pursuivant.*

*Hast.* Go on before; I'll talk with this good  
 fellow. [*Exeunt STANLEY and CATESBY.*]

How now, sirrah! how goes the world with thee?

*Purs.* The better that your lordship please to  
 ask.

*Hast.* I tell thee, man, 't is better with me now  
 Than when I met thee last where now we meet:  
 Then was I going prisoner to the Tower,  
 By the suggestion of the queen's allies;  
 But now, I tell thee, keep it to thyself,  
 This day those enemies are put to death,  
 And I in better state than e'er I was.\*

*Purs.* God hold it to your honour's good con-  
 tent?

*Hast.* Gramercy, fellow: there, drink that for  
 me. [*Throws him his purse.*]

*Purs.* God save your lordship! [*Exit.*]

*Enter a Priest.*

*Priest.* Well met, my lord ; I am glad to see your honour.

*Hast.* I thank thee, good Sir John, with all my heart.

I am in your debt for your last exercise ;  
Come the next Sabbath, and I will content you

*Enter BUCKINGHAM.*

*Bu.* What ! talking with a priest, lord chamberlain ?

Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the priest :  
Your honour hath no shiving work in hand.

*Hast.* Good faith, and when I met this holy man,

Those men you talk of came into my mind.

What ! go you toward the Tower ?

*Buck.* I do, my lord, but long I shall not stay :  
I shall return before your lordship thence.

*Hast.* 'Tis like enough, for I stay dinner there.

*Buck.* [*Aside*] And supper too, although thou know'st it not.

Come, will you go ?

*Hast.* I'll wait upon your lordship.  
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *Pomfret. Before the Castle*

*Enter RATCLIFF, with halberds, carrying RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN to death.*

*Riv.* Sir Richard Ratcliff, let me tell thee this :  
To-day shalt thou behold a subject die



For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

*Grey.* God keep the prince from all the pack of you!

A knot you are of damned blood-suckers.

*Vaugh.* You live that shall cry woe for this hereafter.

*Rat.* Dispatch; the limit of your lives is out.

*Riv.* O Pomfret, Pomfret! O thou bloody prison!  
Fatal and ominous to noble peers.

Within the guilty closure of thy walls

Richard the Second here was hack'd to death;

And, for more slander to thy dismal seat,

We give to thee our guiltless blood to drink.

*Grey.* Now Margaret's curse is fall'n upon our heads,

When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you, and I,

For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

*Riv.* Then cursed she Richard, then cursed she  
Buckingham,

Then cursed she Hastings: O! remember, God,

To hear her prayer for them, as now for us;

And for my sister and her princely sons,

Be satisfied, dear God, with our true blood.

Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt.

*Rat.* Make haste: the hour of death is expiate.

*Riv.* Come, Grey, come, Vaughan; let us here  
embrace.

Farewell, until we meet again in heaven.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV. *London. The Tower.*

BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HASTINGS, *the Bishop of ELY, RATCLIFF, LOVEL, and others, sitting at*

*a table. Officers of the Council attending.*

*Hast.* Now, noble Peers, the cause why we are met

Is, to determine of the coronation :

In God's name, speak, when is the royal day ?

*Buck.* Is all things ready for the royal time ?

*Stan.* It is ; and wants but nomination.

*Ely.* To-morrow then I judge a happy day.

*Buck.* Who knows the lord protector's mind herein ?

Who is most inward with the noble duke ?

*Ely.* Your grace, we think, should soonest know his mind.

*Buck.* We know each other's faces ; for our hearts,

He knows no more of mine than I of yours ;

Nor I of his, my lord, than you of mine.

Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

*Hast.* I thank his grace, I know he loves me well ;

But, for his purpose in the coronation,

I have not sounded him, nor he deliver'd

His gracious pleasure any way therein :

But you, my honourable lords, may name the time ;

And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,

Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

*Enter GLOUCESTER.*

*Ely.* In happy time, here comes the duke himself.

*Glou.* My noble lords and cousins all, good morrow.

I have been long a sleeper ; but, I trust,  
My absence doth neglect no great design,  
Which by my presence might have been concluded.

*Buck.* Had you not come upon your cue, my lord,

William Lord Hastings had pronounced your part,  
I mean, your voice, for crowning of the king.

*Glou.* Than my Lord Hastings no man might  
be bolder :

His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.  
My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,  
I saw good strawberries in your garden there ;  
I do beseech you send for some of them.

*Ely* Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart. [*Exit.*

*Glou.* Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you. [*Takes him aside.*

Catesby hath sounded Hastings in our business,  
And finds the testy gentleman so hot,  
As he will lose his head ere give consent  
His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,  
Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

*Buck* Withdraw yourself awhile ; I'll go with you.

[*Ereunt GLOUCESTER and BUCKINGHAM.*

*Stan.* We have not yet set down this day of triumph.

To-morrow, in my judgement, is too sudden ;  
For I myself am not so well provided  
As else I would be, were the day prolong'd.

*Re-enter Bishop of Ely.*

*Ely.* Where is my lord, the Duke of Gloucester ?

I have sent for these strawberries.

*Hast.* His grace looks cheerfully and smooth  
this morning.

There's some conceit or other likes him well,  
When that he bids good morrow with such spirit.  
I think there's never a man in Christendom  
Can lesser hide his love or hate than he :  
For by his face straight shall you know his heart.

*Stan.* What of his heart perceive you in his face  
By any livelihood he show'd to-day ?

*Hast.* Marry, that with no man here he is  
offend'd ;

For, were he, he had shown it in his looks.

*Re-enter GLOUCESTER and BUCKINGHAM.*

*Glou.* I pray you all, tell me what they deserve  
That do conspire my death with devilish plots  
Of damned witchcraft, and that have prevail'd  
Upon my body with their hellish charms ?

*Hast.* The tender love I bear your grace, my  
lord,  
Makes me most forward in this princely presence  
To doom the offenders, whosoe'er they be :  
I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

*Glou.* Then be your eyes the witness of their  
evil.

Look how I am bewitch'd ; behold mine arm  
Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up :  
And thus is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,  
Consorted with that harlot strumpet Shore,  
That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

*Hast.* If they have done this deed, my noble  
lord,-

*Glou.* Catesby, o'erlook the walls.

*Buck.* Lord mayor, the reason we have sent,—

*Glou.* Look back, defend thee; here are enemies.

*Buck.* God and our innocency defend and guard us!

*Glou.* Be patient, they are friends; Ratcliff and Lovel.

*Enter LOVEL and RATCLIFF, with HASTING'S head.*

*Lov.* Here is the head of that ignoble traitor,  
The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

*Glou.* So dear I loved the man, that I must weep.

I took him for the plainest harmless creature  
That breath'd upon the earth a Christian;  
Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded  
The history of all her secret thoughts:  
So smooth he daub'd his vice with show of virtues  
That, his apparent open guilt omitted,  
I mean his conversation with Shore's wife,  
He lived from all attainder of suspect.

*Buck.* Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd  
traitor

That ever lived.

Would you imagine, or almost believe,  
Were't not that by great preservation  
We live to tell it, that the subtle traitor  
This day had plotted, in the council-house  
To murder me and my good Lord of Gloucester?

*May.* Had he done so?

*Glou.* What! think you we are Turks or infidels?  
Or that we would, against the form of law,

Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death,  
But that the extreme peril of the case,  
The peace of England, and our person's safety,  
Enforced us to this execution ?

*May.* Now, fair befall you ! he deserved his death ;

And your good graces both have well proceeded,  
To warn false traitors from the like attempts

*Buck.* I never look'd for better at his hands,  
After he once fell in with Mistress Shore.  
Yet had we not determined he should die,  
Until your lordship came to see his end ;  
Which now the loving haste of these our friends,  
Something against our meanings, have prevented :  
Because, my lord, I would have had you heard  
The traitor speak, and timorously confess  
The manner and the purpose of his treasons ;  
That you might well have signified the same  
Unto the citizens, who haply may  
Miscalstrue us in him, and wail his death.

*May.* But, my good lord, your grace's word  
shall serve,

As well as I had seen and heard him speak :  
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,  
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens  
With all your just proceedings in this case.

*Glou.* And to that end we wish'd your lordship  
here,

To avoid the censures of the carping world.

*Buck.* But since you come too late of our intent,  
Yet witness what you hear we did intend :  
And so, my good lord mayor, we bid farewell.

• [Exit Lord Mayor.

*Glou.* Go after, after, cousin Buckingham.  
The mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all  
post:

There, at your meetest vantage of the time,  
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children.  
Tell them how Edward put to death a citizen,  
Only for saying he would make his son  
Heir to the crown; meaning indeed his house,  
Which by the sign thereof was termed so.  
Moreover, urge his hateful luxury  
And bestial appetite in change of lust;  
Which stretch'd unto their servants' daughters,  
wives,

Even where his raging eye or savage heart,  
Without control lusted to make a prey.  
Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person:  
Tell them, when that my mother went with child  
Of that insatiate Edward, noble York  
My princely father then had wars in France;  
And by true computation of the time,  
Found that the issue was not his begot;  
Which well appeared in his lineaments,  
Being nothing like the noble duke my father.  
Yet touch this sparingly, as t' were far off;  
Because, my lord, you know my mother lives.

*Buck.* Doubt not, my lord, I'll play the orator  
As if the golden fee for which I plead  
Were for myself: and so, my lord, adieu.

*Glou.* If you thrive well, bring them to Bay-  
nard's castle,

Where you shall find me well accompanied  
With reverend fathers and well-learned bishops.

*Buck.* I go; and towards three or four o'clock

Look for the news that the Guildhall affords.

*Glou.\** Go, Lovel, with all speed to Doctor Shaw;  
[*To CATESBY.*] Go thou to Friar Penker; bid  
them both

Meet me within this hour at Baynard's castle.

[*Exeunt* LOVEL and CATESBY.]

Now will I go, to take some privy order,  
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight;  
And to give notice that no manner person  
Have any time recourse unto the princes. [*Exit.*]

SCENE VI. *The Same. A Street.*

*Enter a Scrivener.*

*Scriv.* Here is the indictment of the good Lord  
Hastings;  
Which in a set hand fairly is engross'd,  
That it may be to-day read o'er in Paul's;  
And mark how well the sequel hangs together.  
Eleven hours I have spent to write it over,  
For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me.  
The precedent was full as long a-doing;  
And yet within these five hours Hastings lived,  
Untainted, unexamined, free, at liberty.  
Here's a good world the while! Who is so gross  
That cannot see this palpable device?  
Yet who so bold but says he sees it not?  
Bad is the world; and all will come to naught,  
When such ill dealing must be seen in thought.

[*Exit.*]



SCENE VII. *The Same. The Court of Baynard's Castle.*

*Enter GLOUCESTER and BUCKINGHAM at several doors*

*Glou.* How now! my lord, what say the citizens?

*Buck.* Now by the holy mother of our Lord,  
The citizens are mum, say not a word.

*Glou.* Touch'd you the bastardy of Edward's children?

*Buck.* I did; with his contract with Lady Lucy,  
And his contract by deputy in France;  
The insatiate greediness of his desires,  
And his enforcement of the city wives;  
His tyranny for trifles; his own bastardy,  
As being got, your father then in France;  
And his resemblance, being not like the duke.  
Withal I did infer your lineaments,  
Being the right idea of your father,  
Both in your form and nobleness of mind;  
Laid open all your victories in Scotland,  
Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,  
Your bounty, virtue, fair humility;  
Indeed, left nothing fitting for your purpose  
Untouch'd or slightly handled in discourse;  
And when mine oratory drew toward end,  
I bade them that did love their country's good  
Cry 'God save Richard, England's royal king!'

*Glou.* And did they so?

*Buck.* No, so God help me, they spake not a word;  
But, like dumb statues or breathing stones,

Stared each on other, and look'd deadly pale.  
Which when I saw, I reprehended them,  
And ask'd the mayor what meant this wilful  
silence :

His answer was, the people were not used  
To be spoke to but by the recorder.  
Then he was urged to tell my tale again :  
'Thus saith the duke, thus hath the duke  
inferred' ;

But nothing spake in warrant from himself.  
When he had done, some followers of mine own,  
At lower end of the hall, hurl'd up their caps,  
And some ten voices cried, 'God save King  
Richard !'

And thus I took the vantage of those few,  
'Thanks, gentle citizens and friends,' quoth I ;  
'This general applause and cheerful shout  
Argues your wisdom and your love to Richard :'  
And even here brake off, and came away.

*Glou.* What tongueless blocks were they !  
would they not speak ?

Will not the mayor then and his brethren come ?

*Buck.* The mayor is here at hand. Intend  
some fear ;

Be not you spoke with but by mighty suit :  
And look you get a prayer-book in your hand,  
And stand between two churchmen, good my lord :  
For on that ground I'll make a holy descant :  
And be not easily won to our requests ;  
Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and take it.

*Glou.* I go ; and if you plead as well for them  
As I can say nay to thee for myself,  
No doubt we bring it to a happy issue.

*Buck.* Go, go, up to the leads! the lord mayor  
knocks. [Exit GLOUCESTER.]

*Enter the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens.*

Welcome, my lord: I dance attendance here;  
I think the duke will not be spoke withal.

*Enter from the Castle, CATESBY.*

Now, Catesby! what says your lord to my request?

*Cates.* He doth entreat your grace, my noble  
lord,

To visit him to-morrow or next day. \*  
He is within, with two right reverend fathers,  
Divinely bent to meditation;  
And in no worldly suits would he be moved,  
To draw him from his holy exercise.

*Buck.* Return, good Catesby, to the gracious  
duke:

Tell him, myself, the mayor and aldermen,  
In deep designs and matter of great moment,  
No less importing than our general good,  
Are come to have some conference with his grace.

*Cates.* I'll signify so much unto him straight.  
[Exit.]

*Buck.* Ah, ah! my lord, this prince is not an  
Edward,  
He is not lolling on a lewd day-bed,  
But on his knees at meditation;  
Not dallying with a brace of courtizans,  
But meditating with two deep divines;  
Not sleeping, to engross his idle body,  
But praying, to enrich his watchful soul.  
Happy were England, would this virtuous prince

Take on his grace the sovereignty thereof :

But, sure, I fear, we shall not win him to it.

*May.* Marry, God defend his grace should say us nay!

*Buck.* I fear he will. Here Catesby comes again.

*Re-enter CATESBY.*

Now, Catesby, what says his grace?

*Cates.* He wonders to what end you have assembled

Such troops of citizens to come to him,  
His grace not being warn'd thereof before:  
My lord, he fears you mean no good to him.

*Buck.* Sorry I am my noble cousin should  
Suspect me that I mean no good to him:  
By heaven, we come to him in perfect love;  
And so once more return, and tell his grace.

*[Exit CATESBY.]*

When holy and devout religious men  
Are at their beads, 'tis much to draw them  
thence;

So sweet is zealous contemplation.

*Enter GLOUCESTER in a gallery above, between two Bishops. CATESBY returns.*

*May.* See! where his grace stands 'tween two clergymen.

*Buck.* Two props of virtue for a Christian prince,

To stay him from the fall of vanity;  
And, see, a book of prayer in his hand,  
True ornament to know a holy man.

Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,  
Lend favourable ear to our requests,  
And pardon us the interruption  
Of thy devotion and right Christian zeal.

*Glou.* My lord, there needs no such apology;  
I do beseech your grace to pardon me,  
Who, earnest in the service of my God,  
Deferr'd the visitation of my friends.  
But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure?

*Buck.* Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God  
above,  
And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

*Glou.* I do suspect I have done some offence  
That seems disgracious in the city's eye;  
And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

*Buck.* You have, my lord. would it might  
please your grace  
On our entreaties to amend your fault.

*Glou.* Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian  
land?

*Buck.* Know then, it is your fault that you  
resign

The supreme seat, the throne majestical,  
The sceptred office of your ancestors,  
Your state of fortune and your due of birth,  
The lineal glory of your royal house,  
To the corruption of a blemish'd stock;  
Whiles, in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts,  
Which here we waken to our country's good,  
This noble isle doth want her proper limbs;  
Her face defaced with scars of infamy,  
Her royal stock graft with ignoble plants,  
And almost shoulder'd in the swallowing gulf

Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion.  
Which to recure we heartily solicit  
Your gracious self to take on you the charge  
And kingly government of this your land ,  
Not as protector, steward, substitute,  
Or lowly factor for another's gain ,  
But as successively from blood to blood,  
Your right of birth, your empery, your own.  
For this, consorted with the citizens,  
Your very worshipful and loving friends,  
And by their vehement instigation,  
In this just cause come I to move your grace.

*Glou.* I cannot will, if to depart in silence  
Or bitterly to speak in your reproof,  
Best fitteth my degree or your condition :  
If not to answer, you might haply think  
Tongue-tied ambition, not replying, yielded  
To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty,  
Which fondly you would here impose on me ;  
If to reprove you for this suit of yours,  
So season'd with your faithful love to me,  
Then, on the other side, I check'd my friends.  
Therefore, to speak, and to avoid the first,  
And then, in speaking, not to incur the last,  
Definitively thus I answer you.  
Your love deserves my thanks ; but my desert  
Unmeritable shuns your high request  
First, if all obstacles were cut away,  
And that my path were even to the crown,  
As the ripe revenue and due of birth,  
Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,  
So mighty and so many my defects,  
That I would rather hide me from my greatness,

e

Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,  
Than in my greatness covet to be hid,  
And in the vapour of my glory smother'd.  
But, God be thank'd, there is no need of me ;  
And much I need to help you, were there need ;  
The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,  
Which, mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,  
Will well become the seat of majesty,  
And make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.  
On him I lay that you would lay on me,  
The right and fortune of his happy stars ;  
Which God defend that I should wring from him

*Buck.* My lord, this argues conscience in you  
grace ;

But the respects thereof are nice and trivial,  
All circumstances well considered  
You say that Edward is your brother's son :  
So say we too, but not by Edward's wife ;  
For first was he contract to Lady Lucy,  
Your mother lives a witness to his vow,  
And afterward by substitute betrothed  
To Bona, sister to the King of France.  
These both put off, a poor petitioner,  
A care-crazed mother to a many sons,  
A beauty-waning and distressed widow,  
Even in the afternoon of her best days,  
Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye,  
Seduced the pitch and height of his degree  
To base declension and loathed bigamy.  
By her, in his unlawful bed, he got  
This Edward, whom our manners call the prince  
More bitterly could I expostulate,  
Save that, for reverence to some alive,

I give a sparing limit to my tongue.  
Then, good my lord, take to your royal self  
This proffer'd benefit of dignity ;  
If not to bless us and the land withal,  
Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry  
From the corruption of abusing times,  
Unto a lineal true-derived course.

*May.* Do, good my lord ; your citizens entreat  
you.

*Buck.* Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd  
love.

*Cates.* O! make them joyful : grant their lawful  
suit.

*Glou.* Alas ! why would you heap this care on  
me ?

I am unfit for state and majesty :  
I do beseech you, take it not amiss ;  
I cannot nor I will not yield to you.

*Buck.* If you refuse it, as in love and zeal,  
Loth to depose the child, your brother's son ;  
As well we know your tenderness of heart  
And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse,  
Which we have noted in you to your kindred,  
And equally indeed to all estates ;  
Yet know, wher you accept our suit or no,  
Your brother's son shall never reign our king ;  
But we will plant some other in the throne,  
To the disgrace and downfall of your house :  
And in this resolution here we leave you.  
Come, citizens, we will entreat no more.

[*Exeunt* BUCKINGHAM and Citizens.

*Cates.* Call him again, sweet prince ; accept their  
suit :



If you deny them, all the land will rue it.

*Glou.* Will you enforce me to a world of cares?  
Call them again: I am not made of stone,  
But penetrable to your kind entreaties,

[*Exit CATESBY.*]

Albeit against my conscience and my soul.

*Re-enter BUCKINGHAM and the rest.*

Cousin of Buckingham, and sage, grave men,  
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,  
To bear her burden, whe'r I will or no,  
I must have patience to endure the load:  
But if black scandal or foul-faced reproach  
Attend the sequel of your unposition,  
Your mere enforcement shall acquittance me  
From all the impure blots and stains thereof;  
For God doth know, and you may partly see,  
How far I am from the desire of this.

*May.* God bless your grace! we see it, and will  
say it.

*Glou.* In saying so you shall but say the truth.

*Buck.* Then I salute you with this royal title:  
Long live King Richard, England's worthy king  
*All.* Amen.

*Buck.* To-morrow may it please you to be  
crown'd?

*Glou.* Even when you please, for you will have  
it so.

*Buck.* To-morrow then we will attend your  
grace:

And so most joyfully we take our leave.

*Glou.* [*To the Bishops.*] Come, let us to our holy  
work again.

Farewell, my cousin ; farewell, gentle friends.  
[*Exeunt.*]

## ACT IV.

SCENE I. *London. Before the Tower.*

*Enter, on one side, Queen ELIZABETH, Duchess of YORK, and Marquess of DORSET ; on the other, ANNE, Duchess of GLOUCESTER, leading Lady MARGARET PLANTAGENET, CLARENCE'S young daughter.*

*Duch.* Who meets us here ? my niece Plantagenet,  
Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloucester !  
Now, for my life, she's wand'ring to the Tower,  
On pure heart's love to greet the tender princes.  
Daughter, well met.

*Anne.* God give your graces both  
A happy and a joyful time of day !

*Q. Eliz.* As much to you, good sister ! whither  
away ?

*Anne.* No further than the Tower ; and, as I  
guess,  
Upon the like devotion as yourselves,  
To gratulate the gentle princes there.

*Q. Eliz.* Kind sister, thanks : we'll enter all to-  
gether.

*Enter BRAKENBURY.*

And, in good time, here the lieutenant comes.  
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,  
How doth the prince, and my young son of York ?  
*Brak.* Right well, dear madam. By your  
patience,

I may not suffer you to visit them :  
The king hath strictly charged the contrary.

*Q Eliz.* The king ! who's that ?

*Brak.* I mean the lord protector.

*Q Eliz.* The Lord protect him from that kingly title !

Hath he set bounds between their love and me ?  
I am their mother ; who shall bar me from them ?

*Duch.* I am their father's mother ; I will see them.

*Anne.* Their aunt I am in law, in love their mother :

Then bring me to their sights ; I'll bear thy blame  
And take thy office from thee, on my peril.

*Brak* No, madam, no ; I may not leave it so :  
I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.

[*Exit.*]

*Enter STANLEY.*

*Stan.* Let me but meet you, ladies, one-hour hence,  
And I'll salute your grace of York as mother,  
And reverend looker-on, of two fair queens.  
[*To ANNE*] Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster,  
There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.

*Q. Eliz.* Ah ! cut my lace asunder,  
That my pent heart may have some scope to beat,  
Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

*Anne.* Despiteful tidings ! O ! unpleasing news.

*Dor.* Be of good cheer : mother, how fares your grace ?

*Q. Eliz.* O Dorset ! speak not to me, get thee gone ;

Death and destruction dog thee at thy heels :

Thy mother's name is ominous to children.

If thou wilt outstrip death, go cross the seas,

And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell :

Go, hie thee, hie thee from this slaughter-house,

Lest thou increase the number of the dead,

And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse,

Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

*Stan.* Full of wise care is this your counsel,  
madam.

Take all the swif' advantage of the hours ;

You shall have letters from me to my son

In your behalf, to meet you on the way :

Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay.

*Duch.* O ill-dispersing wind of misery !

O ! my accursed womb, the bed of death,

• A cockatrice hast thou hatch'd to the world,

Whose unavoided eye is murderous.

*Stan.* Come, madam, come ; I in all haste was  
sent.

*Anne.* And I with all unwillingness will go.

O ! would to God that the inclusive verge

Of golden metal that must round my brow

Were red-hot steel to scar me to the brain.

Anointed let me be with deadly venom ;

And die, ere men can say, God save the queen !

*Q. Eliz.* Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory ;

To feed my humour, wish thyself no harm.

*Anne.* No ! why ? When he that is my husband  
now

Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corse.

When scarce the blood was well wash'd from his hands,  
Which issued from my other angel husband,  
And that dear saint which then I weeping follow'd ;  
O ! when, I say, I look'd on Richard's face,  
This was my wish : ' Be thou,' quoth I, ' accursed,  
For making me, so young, so old a widow !  
And, when thou wedd'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed ;

And be thy wife, if any be so mad,  
More miserable by the life of thee  
Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death !'  
Lo ! ere I can repeat this curse again,  
Within so small a time, my woman's heart  
Grossly grew captive to his honey words,  
And proved the subject of mine own soul's curse :  
Which hitherto hath held mine eyes from rest ;  
For never yet one hour in his bed  
Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep,  
But with his timorous dreams was still awaked.  
Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick,  
And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me

*Q Eliz* Poor heart, adieu ! I pity thy complaining.

*Anne*. No more than with my soul I mourn for yours.

*Dor*. Farewell ! thou woeful welcomer of glory.

*Anne*. Adieu ! poor soul, that takes't thy leave of it

*Duch*. [*To DORSET*] Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee !

[*To ANNE*] Go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee !

[To Queen ELIZABETH.] Go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee !

I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me !  
Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,  
And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen.

Q. Elz. Stay yet ; look back with me unto the Tower.

Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes  
Whom envy hath immured within your walls,  
Rough cradle for such little pretty ones !  
Rude ragged nurse, old sullen playfellow  
For tender princes, use my babies well.  
So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II    *The Same. A Room of State.*

*Flourish of trumpets*    RICHARD, in pomp, crowned ;

• BUCKINGHAM, CATESBY, a Page, and others.

K. Rich. Stand all apart.    Cousin of Buckingham !

Buck. My gracious sovereign !

K. Rich. Give me thy hand.

[*He ascends the throne.*]

Thus high, by thy advice

And thy assistance, is King Richard seated.

But shall we wear these glories for a day,

Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them ?

Buck. Still live they, and for ever let them last !

K. Rich. Ah ! Buckingham, now do I play the touch,

To try if thou be current gold indeed :

Young Edward lives : think now what I would  
speak.

*Buck.* Say on, my loving lord

*K. Rich.* Why, Buckingham, I say I would be  
king.

*Buck.* Why, so you are, my thrice-renowned  
lord

*K. Rich.* Ha ! am I king ? 'T is so , but Edward  
lives

*Buck* 'True, noble prince.

*K. Rich* O bitter consequence,  
That Edward 'still should live ! 'True, noble  
prince.'

Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull

Shall I be plain ? I wish the bastards dead ,

And I would have it suddenly performed.

What say'st thou now ? speak suddenly, be brief.

*Buck* Your grace may do your pleasure

*K. Rich.* Tut, tut ! thou art all ice, thy kindness  
freezeth.

Say, have I thy consent that they shall die ?

*Buck.* Give me some little breath, some pause,  
dear lord,

Before I positively speak in this .

I will resolve you herein presently. [Exit.

*Cates. [Aside]* The king is angry : see, he gnaws  
his lip.

*K. Rich. [Descends from his throne]* I will con-  
verse with iron-witted fools

And unrespective boys . none are for me

That look into me with considerate eyes.

High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect.

Boy !

*Page.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* Know'st thou not any whom corrupting gold

Will tempt unto a close exploit of death ?

*Page.* I know a discontented gentleman,  
Whose humble means match not his haughty  
spirit :

Gold were as good as twenty orators,  
And will, no doubt, tempt him to any thing.

*K. Rich.* What is his name ?

*Page.* His name, my lord, is Tyrrel.

*K. Rich.* I partly know the man : go, call him  
hither. [Exit Page.

The deep-revolving witty Buckingham  
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels.  
Hath he so long held out with me untired,  
And stops he now for breath ? well, be it so.

Enter STANLEY.

How, now, Lord Stanley ! what's the news ?

*Stan.* Know, my loving lord,  
The Marquess Dorset, as I hear, is fled  
To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

*K. Rich.* Come hither, Catesby : rumour it  
abroad

That Anne my wife is very grievous sick ;  
I will take order for her keeping close.  
Inquire me out some mean poor gentleman,  
Whom I will marry straight to Clarence' daughter :  
The boy is foolish, and I fear not him.  
Look, how thou dream'st ! I say again, give out  
That Anne my queen is sick and like to die :



About it ; for it stands me much upon  
To stop all hopes whose growth may damage me.  
[Exit CATESBY.]

I must be married to my brother's daughter,  
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass.  
Murder her brothers, and then marry her !  
Uncertain way of gain ! But I am in  
So far in blood that sin will pluck on sin :  
Tear falling pity dwells not in this eye

*Re-enter Page, with TYRREL*

Is thy name Tyrrel ?

*Tyr* James Tyrrel, and your most obedient  
subject

*K. Rich.* Art thou, indeed ?

*Tyr.* Prove me, my gracious lord.

*K. Rich.* Darest thou resolve to kill a friend of  
mine ?

*Tyr.* Please you ; but I had rather kill two  
enemies.

*K. Rich.* Why, then thou hast it two deep  
enemies,

Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's disturbers,  
Are they that I would have thee deal upon  
Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower

*Tyr.* Let me have open means to come to them,  
And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them

*K. Rich.* Thou sing'st sweet music Hark, come  
hither, Tyrrel

Go, by this token . rise, and lend thine ear.

[*Whispers.*]

There is no more but so : say it is done,

And I will love thee, and prefer thee for it.

*Tyr.* I will dispatch it straight. [Exit.

*Re-enter BUCKINGHAM.*

*Buck.* My lord, I have consider'd in my mind  
The late request that you did sound me in.

*K. Rich.* Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to  
Richmond

*Buck.* I hear the news, my lord

*K. Rich.* Stanley, he is your wife's son, well  
look unto it

*Buck.* My lord, I claim the gift, my due by  
promise,

For which your honour and your faith is pawn'd ;  
The earldom of Hereford and the moveables  
Which you have promised I shall possess.

*K. Rich.* Stanley, look to your wife. if she  
convey

Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

*Buck.* What says your highness to my just re-  
quest ?

*K. Rich.* I do remember me, Henry the Sixth  
Did prophesy that Richmond should be king,  
When Richmond was a little peevish boy.

A king ! perhaps—

*Buck.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* How chance the prophet could not at  
that time

Have told me, I being by, that I should kill him ?

*Buck.* My lord, your promise for the earldom,—

*K. Rich.* Richmond ! When last I was at Exeter,  
The mayor in courtesy show'd me the castle,  
And call'd it Rougemont. at which name I started,

Because a bard of Ireland told me once  
I should not live long after I saw Richmond.

*Buck.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* Ay, what's o'clock ?

*Buck.* I am thus bold to put your grace in mind  
Of what you promised me.

*K. Rich.* Well, but what's o'clock ?

*Buck.* Upon the stroke of ten.

*K. Rich.* Well, let it strike

*Buck.* Why let it strike ?

*K. Rich.* Because that, like a Jack, thou keep'st  
the stroke

Between thy begging and my meditation.

I am not in the giving vein to-day

*Buck.* Why, then resolve me whether you will  
or no.

*K. Rich.* Thou troublest me I am not in the  
vein [Exeunt KING RICHARD and Train.

*Buck.* And is it thus ? repays he my deep service  
With such contempt ? made I him king for this ?  
O ! let me think on Hastings, and be gone  
To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on. [Exit.

### SCENE III. The Same.

Enter TYRREL.

*Tyr.* The tyrannous and bloody act is done ;  
The most arch deed of piteous massacre  
That ever yet this land was guilty of. "  
Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborn  
To do this piece of ruthless butchery,  
Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,  
Melted with tenderness and mild compassion,

Wept like to children in their death's sad story.  
'Oh ! thus,' quoth Dighton, 'lay the gentle babes :'  
'Thus, thus,' quoth Forrest, 'girdling one another  
Within their alabaster innocent arms :  
Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,  
And in their summer beauty kiss'd each other.  
A book of prayers on their pillow lay ;  
Which once,' quoth Forrest, 'almost changed my  
mind ;  
But O ! the devil'—there the villain stopp'd ;  
When Dighton thus told on ' We smothered  
The most replenished sweet work of nature,  
That from the prime creation e'er she framed.'  
Hence both are gone with conscience and remorse ;  
They could not speak, and so I left them both,  
To bear this tidings to the bloody king

*Enter King RICHARD.*

And here he comes All health, my sovereign  
lord !

*K. Rich.* Kind Tyrrel, am I happy in thy news ?

*Tyr.* If to have done the thing you gave in  
charge

Beget your happiness, be happy then,  
For it is done.

*K. Rich.* But didst thou see them dead ?

*Tyr.* I did, my lord.

*K. Rich.* And buried, gentle Tyrrel ?

*Tyr.* The chaplain of the Tower hath buried  
them ;

But where, to say the truth, I do not know.

*K. Rich.* Come to me, Tyrrel, soon, at after-  
supper,

When thou shalt tell the process of their death.  
 Meantime, but think how I may do thee good,  
 And be inheritor of thy desire.  
 Farewell till then

*Tyr.* I humbly take my leave. [*Exit.* \*]

*K. Rich.* The son of Clarence have I pent up  
 close ;

His daughter meanly have I match'd in marriage ;  
 The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,  
 And Anne my wife hath bid this world good night.  
 Now, for I know the Breton Richmond aims  
 At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,  
 And, by that knot, looks proudly on the crown,  
 To her go I a jolly thriving wooer.

*Enter CATESBY.*

*Cates.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* Good or bad news, that thou comest in  
 so bluntly ?

*Cates.* Bad news, my lord. Morton is fled to  
 Richmond ;

And Buckingham, back'd with the hardy Welsh-  
 men,

Is in the field, and still his power increaseth.

*K. Rich.* Ely with Richmond troubles me more  
 near

Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.

Come ; I have learn'd that fearful commenting

Is leaden servitor to dull delay ;

Delay leads impotent and snail-paced beggary :

Then fiery expedition be my wing,

Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king.

Go, muster men : my counsel is my shield ;

We must be brief when traitors brave the field.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV. *The Same Before the Palace.*

*Enter Queen MARGARET.*

*Q. Mar.* So, now prosperity begins to mellow  
And drop into the rotten mouth of death.  
Here in these confines shily have I lurk'd  
To watch the waning of mine enemies.  
A dire induction am I witness to,  
And will to France, hoping the consequence  
Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical.  
Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret who comes  
here?

*Enter Queen ELIZABETH and the Duchess of YORK.*

*Q. Eliz.* Ah! my poor princes, ah! my tender  
babes,

My unblown flowers, new-appearing sweets,  
If yet your gentle souls fly in the air  
And be not fix'd in doom perpetual,  
Hover about me with your airy wings,  
And hear your mother's lamentation.

*Q. Mar.* Hover about her; say, that right for  
right  
Hath dimm'd your infant morn to aged night.

*Duch.* So many miseries have crazed my voice,  
That my woe-wearied tongue is still and mute.  
Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead?

*Q. Mar.* Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet;  
Edward for Edward pays a dying debt.

*Q. Eliz.* Wilt thou, O God ! fly from such gentle lambs,  
And throw them in the entrails of the wolf ?  
When didst thou sleep when such a deed was done ?

*Q. Mar.* When holy Harry died, and my sweet son.

*Duch.* Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal living ghost,  
Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due by hue usurp'd,,  
Brief abstract and record of tedious days,  
Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,

*[Sitting down.*

Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood !

*Q. Eliz.* Ah ! that thou wouldst as soon afford a grave

As thou canst yield a melancholy seat ;  
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here.  
Ah ! who hath any cause to mourn but we ?

*[Sitting down by her.*

*Q. Mar.* If ancient sorrow be most reverend,  
Give mine the benefit of seniory,  
And let my griefs frown on the upper hand.  
If sorrow can admit society,

*[Sitting down with them.*

Tell o'er your woes again by viewing mine :  
I had an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him ;  
I had a Harry, till a Richard kill'd him ;  
Thou had'st an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him ;  
Thou had'st a Richard, till a Richard kill'd him.

*Duch.* I had a Richard too, and thou didst kill him ;

I had a Rutland too, thou holp'st to kill him.

Q *Mar.* Thou hadst a Clarence too, and Richard kill'd him.

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept  
A hell-hound that doth hunt us all to death:

This dog, that had his teeth before his eyes,

To worry lambs and lap their gentle blood,

This foul defect of God's handiwork,

This excellent grand tyrant of the earth,

This cruel as in galled eyes of weeping souls,

This womb let loose, to chase us to our graves.

O thoughtless, just, and true-disposing God,

How soon I thank thee that this carnal cur

Proceeds from the issue of his mother's body,

As shee whose power-fellow with others moan.

O! Henry's wife, triumph not in my

God, as thou wilt, with me, I have wept for thine.

Q *Mar.* Fear with me, I am hungry for revenge.

And now I dote me with beholding it

Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Edward;

Thy other Edward dead, to quit my Edward,

Young York he is but boot, because both they

Match not the high perfection of my loss.

Thy Clarence he is dead that stabbed my Edward;

And the beholders of this frantic play,

The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grey,

Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.

Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer,

Only reserv'd their factor, to buy souls

And send them thither; but at hand, at hand,

Ensues his piteous and unpitied end.



Earth gapes, hell Burns, fiends roar, saints pray,  
To have him suddenly convey'd from hence.  
Cancel his bond of life, dear God : I pray,  
That I may live and say, The dog is dead.

*Q. Eliz.* O ! thou didst prophesy the time would  
come

That I should wish for thee to help me curse  
That bottled spider, that foul bunchback'd toad.

*Q. Mar* I call'd thee then vain flourish of my  
fortune ;

I call'd thee then poor shadow, painted queen ;  
The presentation of but what I was ,

The flattering index of a direful pageant ;

One heaved o' high, to be hurl'd down below ;

A mother only mock'd with two fair babes ;

A dream of what thou wast, a breath, a bubble,

A sign of dignity, a garish flag

To be the aim of every dangerous shot ;

A queen in jest, only to fill the scene

Where is thy husband now ? where be thy  
brothers ?

Where be thy two sons ? wherein dost thou joy ?

Who sues and kneels and says ' God save the  
queen ' ?

Where be the bending peers that flatter'd thee ?

Where be the thronging troops that follow'd  
thee ?

Decline all this, and see what now thou art :

For happy wife, a most distressed widow ;

For joyful mother, one that wails the name ;

For one being sued to, one that humbly sues ;

For queen, a very cautiff crown'd with care ;

For she that scorn'd at me, now scorn'd of me ;

For she being fear'd of all, now fearing one ;  
For she commanding all, obey'd of none.  
Thus hath the course of justice whurl'd about.  
And left thee but a very prey to time ;  
Having no more but thought of what thou wert,  
To torture thee the more, being what thou art  
Thou didst usurp my place, and dost thou not  
Usurp the just proportion of my sorrow ?  
Now thy proud neck bears half my burden'd  
yoke ;  
From which even here I slip my wearied head,  
And leave the burden of it all on thee.  
Farewell, York's wife, and queen of sad mischance:  
These English woes shall make me smile in  
France.

*Q. Eliz.* O thou, well skill'd in curses, stay  
awhile,

And teach me how to curse mine enemies

• *Q. Mar.* Forbear to sleep the night, and fast the  
day ;

Compare dead happiness with living woe ;  
'Think that thy babes were fairer than they were,  
And he that slew them fouler than he is :  
Bettering thy loss, makes the bad causer worse  
Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.

*Q. Eliz.* My words are dull ; O ! quicken them  
with thine.

*Q. Mar.* Thy woes will make them sharp, and  
pierce like mine. [*Exit.*

*Duch.* Why should calamity be full of words ?

*Q. Eliz.* Windy attorneys to their client woes,  
Airy succeeders of intestate joys,  
Poor breathing orators of miseries !

Let them have scope: though what they do impart

Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.

*Duch.* If so, thou be not tongue-tied: go with me,

And in the breath of litter words let's smother  
My damned son, that thy two sweet sons smother'd.

[*A trumpet heard.*]

The trumpet sounds: be copious in exclams.

*Enter King RICHARD and his Train, marching.*

*K. Rich.* Who intercepts me in my expedition?

*Duch.* O! she that might have intercepted thee  
By strangling thee in her accursed womb,  
From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast  
done.

*Q. Eliz.* Hastest thou that forehead with a golden  
crown,

Where should be branded, if that right were right,  
The slaughter of the prince that owed that crown,  
And the dire death of my poor sons and brothers?  
Tell me, thou villain slave, where are my children?

*Duch.* Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy  
brother Clarence,

And little Ned Plantagenet, his son?

*Q. Eliz.* Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan,  
Grey?

*Duch.* Where is kind Hastings? . . .

*K. Rich.* A flourish, trumpets! strike alarum,  
drums!

Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women

Rail on the Lord's anointed. Strike, I say!

..

[*Flourish. Alarums.*]

Either be patient, and entreat me fair,  
Or with the clamorous report of war  
Thus will I drown your exclamations.

*Duch.* Art thou my son?

*K. Rich.* Ay, I thank God, my father, and  
yourself

*Duch.* Then patiently hear my impatience.

*K. Rich.* Madam, I have a touch of your condi-  
tion,

That cannot brook the accent of reproof.

*Duch.* O! let me speak

*K. Rich.* Do then; but I'll not hear.

*Duch.* I will be mild and gentle in my words.

*K. Rich.* And brief, good mother; for I am in  
haste.

*Duch.* Art thou so hasty? I have stay'd for  
thee,

God knows, in torment and in agony.

*K. Rich.* And came I not at last to comfort  
• you?

*Duch.* No, by the holy rood, thou know'st it  
well.

Thou camest on earth to make the earth my hell.

A grievous burden was thy birth to me;

Tetchy and wayward was thy infancy;

Thy school-days frightful, desperate, wild and  
furious;

Thy prime of manhood daring, bold and ven-  
turous;

Thy age confirm'd, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody,

More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in hatred:

What comfortable hour canst thou name

That ever graced me with thy company?

*K. Rich.* Faith, none, but Humphrey Hour,  
that call'd your grace  
To breakfast once forth of my company.  
If I be so disgracious in your eye,  
Let me march on, and not offend you, madam.  
Strike up the drum.

*Duch.* I prithee, hear me speak

*K. Rich.* You speak too bitterly

*Duch.* Hear me a word ;

For I shall never speak to thee again.

*K. Rich.* So !

*Duch.* Either thou wilt die by God's just  
ordnance,

Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror,  
Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish  
And never more behold thy face again.  
Therefore take with thee my most grievous curse ;  
Which, in the day of battle, tire thee more  
Than all the complete armour that thou wear'st !  
My prayers on the adverse party fight ;  
And there the little souls of Edward's children  
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies  
And promise them success and victory.  
Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end ;  
Shame serves thy life and doth thy death attend.

[*Exit.*

*Q. Eliz.* Though far more cause, yet much less  
spirit to curse

Abides in me : I say amen to her. [*Going.*

*K. Rich.* Stay, madam, I must talk a word  
with you.

*Q. Eliz.* I have no more sons of the royal blood  
For thee to slaughter : for my daughters, Richard,

They shall be praving nuns, not weeping queens ;  
And therefore level not to hit their lives.

*K. Rich.* You have a daughter call'd Elizabeth,  
Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

*Q. Eliz.* And must she die for this? O! let  
her live,

And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty ;  
Slander myself as false to Edward's bed ;  
Throw over her the veil of intamy .

So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter,  
I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

*K. Rich.* Wrong not her birth, she is a royal  
princess.

*Q. Eliz.* To save her life, I'll say she is not so.

*K. Rich.* Her life is safest only in her birth.

*Q. Eliz.* And only in that safety died her  
brothers.

*K. Rich.* Lo! at their birth good stars were  
opposite.

*Q. Eliz.* No, to their lives all friends were con-  
trary.

*K. Rich.* All unavoided is the doom of destiny.

*Q. Eliz.* True, when avoided grace makes  
destiny.

My babes were destin'd to a fairer death,  
If grace had bless'd thee with a fairer life.

*K. Rich.* You speak as if that I had slain my  
cousins.

*Q. Eliz.* Cousins, indeed ; and by their uncle  
cozen'd

Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life.  
Whose hand soever lanced their tender hearts,  
Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction :

No doubt the murderous knife was dull and blunt  
Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,  
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.  
But that still use of grief makes wild grief tame,  
My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys  
Till that my nails were anchor'd in thine eyes,  
And I, in such a desperate bay of death,  
Like a poor bark, of sails and tackling reft,  
Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.

*K. Rich.* Madam, so thrive I in my enterprise  
And dangerous success of bloody wars,  
As I intend more good to you and yours,  
Than ever you or yours by me were harm'd.

*Q. Eliz.* What good is cover'd with the face of  
heaven,  
To be discover'd, that can do me good?

*K. Rich.* The advancement of your children,  
gentle lady.

*Q. Eliz.* Up to some scaffold, there to lose their  
heads?

*K. Rich.* Unto the dignity and height of fortune,  
The high imperial top of this earth's glory.

*Q. Eliz.* Flatter my sorrow with report of it,  
Tell me what state, what dignity, what honour,  
Canst thou demise to any child of mine?

*K. Rich.* Even all I have; ay, and myself and  
all,

Will I withal endow a child of thine;  
So in the Lethe of thy angry soul  
Thou drown the sad remembrance of those wrongs  
Which thou supposest I have done to thee.

*Q. Eliz.* Be brief, lest that the process of thy  
kindness

Last longer telling than thy kindress' date.

*K. Rich.* Then know, that from my soul I love thy daughter.

*Q. Eliz.* My daughter's mother thinks it with her soul

*K. Rich.* What do you think?

*Q. Eliz.* That thou dost love my daughter from thy soul.

So from thy soul's love didst thou love her brothers;

And from my heart's love I do thank thee for it.

*K. Rich.* Be not so hasty to confound my meaning:

I mean, that with my soul I love thy daughter,  
And do intend to make her Queen of England.

*Q. Eliz.* Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king?

*K. Rich.* Even he that makes her queen: who else should be?

*Q. Eliz.* What! thou?

*K. Rich.* Even so—how think you of it?

*Q. Eliz.* How canst thou woo her?

*K. Rich.* That I would learn of you,  
As one being best acquainted with her humour

*Q. Eliz.* And wilt thou learn of me?

*K. Rich.* Madam, with all my heart.

*Q. Eliz.* Send to her, by the man that slew her brothers,

A pair of bleeding hearts; thereon engrave  
Edward and York; then haply will she weep:  
Therefore present to her, as sometime Margaret  
Did to thy father, steep'd in Rutland's blood,  
A handkerchief, which, say to her, did drain



The purple sap from her sweet brothers' body,  
And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.  
If this inducement move her not to love,  
Send her a letter of thy noble deeds ;  
Tell her thou madest away her uncle Clarence,  
Her uncle Rivers , ay, and for her sake,  
Madest quick conveyance with her good aunt  
Anne

*K. Rich.* You mock me, madam , this is not the  
way

To win your daughter.

*Q. Eliz.* " There is no other way  
Unless thou could'st put on some other shape,  
And not be Richard that hath done all this

*K. Rich.* Say that I did all this for love of her ?

*Q. Eliz.* Nay, then indeed she cannot choose but  
hate thee,

Having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

*K. Rich.* Look, what is done cannot be now  
amended .

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,  
Which after-hours give leisure to repent  
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,  
To make amends I'll give it to your daughter.  
If I have kill'd the issue of your womb,  
To quicken your increase, I will beget  
Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter :  
A grandam's name is little less in love  
Than is the doting title of a mother ;  
They are as children but one step below,  
Even of your mettle, of your very blood ;  
Of all one pain, save for a night of groans  
Endured of her, for whom you bid like sorrow.

Your children were vexation to your youth,  
 But mine shall be a comfort to your age.  
 The loss you have is but a son being king,  
 And by that loss your daughter is made queen.  
 I cannot make you what amends I would,  
 Therefore accept such kindness as I can  
 Dorset your son, that with a fearful soul  
 Leads discontented steps in foreign soil,  
 This fair alliance quickly shall call home  
 To high promotions and great dignity.  
 The king, that calls your beautiful daughter  
 wife, •

Familiarly shall call thy Dorset brother ;  
 Again shall you be mother to a king,  
 And all the ruins of distressful times  
 Repair'd with double riches of content  
 What ! we have many goodly days to see :  
 The liquid drops of tears that you have shed  
 • Shall come again, transform'd to orient pearl,  
 Advantaging their loan with interest  
 Of ten times double gain of happiness.  
 Go then, my mother, to thy daughter go :  
 Make bold her bashful years with your experience ;  
 Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale ;  
 Put in her tender heart the aspiring flame  
 Of golden sovereignty ; acquaint the princess  
 With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys :  
 And when this arm of mine hath chastised  
 The petty rebel, dull-brain'd Buckingham,  
 Bound with triumphant garlands will I come,  
 And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed ;  
 To whom I will retail my conquest won,  
 And she shall be sole victress, Caesar's Caesar.

- Q. Eliz.* What were I best to say ? her father's brother  
Would be her lord ? or shall I say her uncle ?  
Or he that slew her brothers and her uncles ?  
Under what title shall I woo for thee,  
That God, the law, my honour, and her love,  
Can make seem pleasing to her tender years ?
- K. Rich.* Infer fair England's peace by this alliance.
- Q. Eliz.* Which she shall purchase with still lasting war.
- K. Rich.* Tell her, the king, that may command, entreats
- Q. Eliz.* That at her hands which the kings' King forbids.
- K. Rich.* Say she shall be a high and mighty queen
- Q. Eliz.* To wail the title, as her mother doth.
- K. Rich.* Say I will love her everlastingly.
- Q. Eliz.* But how long shall that title 'ever' last ?
- K. Rich.* Sweetly in force unto her fair life's end.
- Q. Eliz.* But how long fairly shall her sweet life last ?
- K. Rich.* As long as heaven and nature lengthens it
- Q. Eliz.* As long as hell and Richard likes of it.
- K. Rich.* Say I, her sovereign, am her subject low.
- Q. Eliz.* But she, your subject, loathes such sovereignty.
- K. Rich.* Be eloquent in my behalf to her.
- Q. Eliz.* An honest tale speeds best being plainly

told.

*K. Rich.* Then plainly to her tell my loving tale.

*Q. Eliz.* Plain and not honest is too harsh a style.

*K. Rich.* Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.

*Q. Eliz.* O, no ! my reasons are too deep and dead ;

Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

*K. Rich.* Harp not on that string, inadam ; that is past.

*Q. Eliz.* Harp on it still shall I till heartstrings break.

*K. Rich.* Now, by my George, my garter, and my crown,—

*Q. Eliz.* Profaned, dishonour'd, and the third usurp'd.

*K. Rich.* I swear—

*Q. Eliz.* By nothing ; for this is no oath.  
Thy George, profaned, hath lost his holy honour ;  
Thy garter, blemish'd, pawn'd his knightly virtue ;  
Thy crown, usurp'd, disgraced his kingly glory.  
If something thou would'st swear to be believed,  
Swear then by something that thou hast not wrong'd.

*K. Rich.* Now, by the world,—

*Q. Eliz.* 'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

*K. Rich.* My father's death,—

*Q. Eliz.* Thy life hath it dishonour'd.

*K. Rich.* Then, by myself,—

*Q. Eliz.* Thyself is self-misused.

*K. Rich.* Why then, by God,—

*Q. Eliz.* God's wrong is most of all.

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,  
 The unity the king my husband made  
 Thou hadst not broken, nor my brothers died :  
 If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,  
 The imperial metal, circling now thy head,  
 Had graced the tender temples of my child,  
 And both the princes had been breathing here,  
 Which now, two tender bedfellows for dust,  
 Thy broken faith hath made the prey for  
 worms.

What canst thou swear by now ?

*K. Rich.* The time to come.

*Q. Eliz.* That thou hast wronged in the time  
 o'erpast ;

For I myself have many tears to wash  
 Hereafter time for time past wrong'd by thee.  
 The children live, whose fathers thou hast  
 slaughter'd,  
 Ungovern'd youth, to wail it in their age  
 The parents live, whose children thou hast  
 butcher'd,

Old barren plants, to wail it with their age.  
 Swear not by time to come ; for that thou hast  
 Misused ere used, by times ill-used o'erpast.

*K. Rich.* As I intend to prosper, and repent,  
 So thrive I in my dangerous affairs  
 Of hostile arms ! myself myself confound !  
 Heaven and fortune bar me happy hours !  
 Day, yield me not thy light ; nor, light, thy  
 rest !

Be opposite all planets of good luck  
 To my proceeding, if, with dear hearts' love,  
 Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts,

I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter !  
In her consists my happiness and thine ;  
Without her, follows to myself, and thee,  
Herself, the land, and many a Christian soul,  
Death, desolation, ruin, and decay .  
It cannot be avoided but by this ;  
It will not be avoided but by this.  
Therefore, dear mother, I must call you so,  
Be the attorney of my love to her  
Plead what I will be, not what I have been ;  
Not my deserts, but what I will deserve .  
Urge the necessity and state of times,  
And be not peevish-fond in great designs.

*Q. Eliz.* Shall I be tempted of the devil thus ?

*K. Rich.* Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do  
good.

*Q. Eliz.* Shall I forget myself to be myself ?

*K. Rich.* Ay, if yourself's remembrance wrong  
yourself.

*Q. Eliz.* Yet thou didst kill my children.

*K. Rich.* But in your daughter's womb I bury  
them .

Where, in that nest of spicery, they will breed  
Selves of themselves to your recomforture.

*Q. Eliz.* Shall I go win my daughter to thy  
will ?

*K. Rich.* And be a happy mother by the  
deed

*Q. Eliz.* I            Write to me very shortly,  
And you shall understand from me her mind.

*K. Rich.* Bear her my true love's kiss ; and so  
farewell .            [*Exit Queen ELIZABETH.*  
Relenting fool, and shallow changing woman !

*Enter RATCLIFF ; CATESBY following.*

How now ! what news ?

*Rat.* Most mighty sovereign, on the western coast

Rideth a puissant navy ; to our shores  
Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,  
Unarm'd, and unresolved to beat them back.  
'Tis thought that Richmond is their admiral ;  
And there they hull, expecting but the aid  
Of Buckingham to welcome them ashore ;

*K. Rich.* Some light-foot friend post to the  
Duke of Norfolk .

Ratcliff, thyself, or Catesby ; where is he ?

*Cates.* Here, my good lord.

*K. Rich.* Catesby, fly to the duke.

*Cates.* I will, my lord, with all convenient  
haste.

*K. Rich.* Ratcliff, come hither. Post to Salisbury

When thou comest thither,— [*To CATESBY.*]

Dull, unmindful villain,

Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the duke ?

*Cates.* First, mighty liege, tell me your high-  
ness' pleasure,

What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

*K. Rich.* O ! true, good Catesby : bid him levy  
straight

The greatest strength and power he can make,

And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.

*Cates.* I go.

[*Exit.*]

*Rat.* What, may it please you, shall I do at  
Salisbury ?

*K. Rich.* Why, what wouldst thou do there before I go?

*Rat.* Your highness told me I should post before.

*Enter STANLEY*

*K. Rich.* My mind is changed. Stanley, what news with you?

*Stan.* None good, my liege, to please you with the hearing;

Nor none so bad but well may be reported

*K. Rich.* Heyday, a riddle! neither good nor bad?

What need'st thou run so many miles about,

When thou may'st tell thy tale the nearest way?

Once more, what news?

*Stan.* Richmond is on the seas.

*K. Rich.* There let him sink, and be the seas on him!

White-liver'd runagate! what doth he there?

*Stan.* I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess

*K. Rich.* Well, as you guess?

*Stan.* Stirr'd up by Dorset, Buckingham, and Morton,

He makes for England, here to claim the crown

*K. Rich.* Is the chair empty? is the sword unsway'd?

Is the king dead? the empire unpossess'd?

What heir of York is there alive but we?

And who is England's king but great York's heir?

Then, tell me, what makes he upon the seas?



*Stan.* Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.

*K. Rich.* Unless for that he comes to be your liege,

You cannot guess wherefore the Welshman comes.  
Thou wilt revolt and fly to him I fear.

*Stan.* No, my good lord ; therefore mistrust me not

*K. Rich.* Where is thy power then to beat him back ?

Where be thy tenants and thy followers ?

Are they not now upon the western shore,  
Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships ?

*Stan.* No, my good lord, my friends are in the north.

*K. Rich.* Cold friends to me . what do they in the north

When they should serve their sovereign in the west ?

*Stan.* They have not been commanded, mighty king

Pleaseth your majesty to give me leave,

I'll muster up my friends, and meet your grace

Where and what time your majesty shall please.

*K. Rich.* Ay, ay, thou would'st be gone to join with Richmond

But I'll not trust thee.

*Stan.* Most mighty sovereign,

You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful.

I never was nor never will be false.

*K. Rich.* Go then and muster men : but leave behind

Your son, George Stanley : look your heart be

firm,  
Or else his head's assurance is but frail.

*Stan.* So deal with him as I prove true to you.  
[*Exit.*

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Mess.* My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire,  
As I by friends am well advertised,  
Sir Edward Courtney, and the haughty prelate,  
Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother,  
With many more confederates, are in arms

*Enter another Messenger.*

*Second Mess.* In Kent, my liege, the Guildfords  
are in arms,  
And every hour more competitors  
Flock to the rebels, and their power grows strong.

*Enter a third Messenger.*

*Third Mess.* My lord, the army of great Buckingham—

*K. Rich.* Out on ye, owls! nothing but songs  
of death? [He strikes him.

There, take thou that, till thou bring better news.

*Third Mess.* The news I have to tell your majesty  
Is, that by sudden floods and fall of waters,  
Buckingham's army is dispers'd and scatter'd;  
And he himself wander'd away alone,  
No man knows whither.

*K. Rich.* I cry thee mercy:  
There is my purse to cure that blow of thine.

Hath any well-advised friend proclaim'd  
Reward to him that brings the traitor in?

*Third Mess.* Such proclamation hath been made,  
my liege.

*Enter a fourth Messenger.*

*Fourth Mess* Sir Thomas Lovel and Lord Mar-  
quess Dorset,

'T is said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.  
But this good comfort bring I to your highness,  
The Breton navy is dispersed by tempest.  
Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat  
Unto the shore to ask those on the banks  
If they were his assistants, yea or no;  
Who answer'd him, they came from Buckingham  
Upon his party. he, mistrusting them,  
Hous'd sail and made away for Brittany.

*K. Rich.* March on, march on, since we are up  
in arms;  
If not to fight with foreign enemies,  
Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.

*Re-enter CATESBY.*

*Cates.* My liege, the Duke of Buckingham is  
taken;  
That is the best news: that the Earl of Richmond  
Is with a mighty power landed at Milford,  
Is colder news, but yet they must be told.

*K. Rich.* Away towards Salisbury! while we  
reason here  
A royal battle might be won and lost.  
Some one take order Buckingham be brought

To Salisbury ; the rest march on with me.

[*Flourish. Exeunt.*]

SCENE V. *The Same. A Room in Lord  
STANLEY'S House.*

*Enter STANLEY and Sir CHRISTOPHER URSWICK.*

*Stan.* Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from  
me :

That in the sty of the most bloody boar  
My son George Stanley is frank'd up in hold :  
If I revolt, off goes young George's head ;  
The fear of that holds off my present aid.  
So, get thee gone : commend me to thy lord.  
Withal, say, that the queen hath heartily consented  
He should espouse Elizabeth her daughter.  
But, tell me, where is princely Richmond now ?

*Chris.* At Pembroke or at Ha'rford-west, in  
Wales

*Stan.* What men of name resort to him ?

*Chris.* Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier,  
Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir William Stanley,  
Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir James Blunt,  
And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew ;  
And many other of great name and worth :  
And towards London do they bend their power,  
If by the way they be not fought withal.

*Stan.* Well, hie thee to thy lord ; I kiss his  
hand ;

These letters will resolve him of my mind.

Farewell.

[*Exeunt.*]

## ACT V.

SCENE I. *Salisbury. An open Place.*

*Enter the Sheriff and Guard, with BUCKINGHAM,  
led to execution.*

*Buck.* Will not King Richard let me speak with him?

*Sher.* No, my good lord; therefore be patient.

*Buck.* Hastings, and Edward's children, Grey, and Rivers,

Holy King Henry, and thy fair son Edward,

Vaughan, and all that have miscarried

By underhand corrupted foul injustice,

If that your moody discontented souls

Do through the clouds behold this present hour,

Even for revenge mock my destruction!

This is All-Souls' day, fellows, is it not?

*Sher.* It is, my lord.

*Buck.* Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.

This is the day that, in King Edward's time,

I wish'd might fall on me, when I was found

False to his children or his wife's allies;

This is the day wherein I wish'd to fall

By the false faith of him whom most I trusted;

This, this All-Souls day to my fearful soul

Is the determined respite of my wrongs.

That high All-Seer which I dallied with

Hath turn'd my feigned prayer on my head,

And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.

Thus doth He force the swords of wicked men

To turn their own points on their masters' bosoms:

Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck :  
'When he,' quoth she, 'shall split thy heart with  
sorrow,  
Remember Margaret was a prophetess.'  
Come, lead me, officers, to the block of shame ;  
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of  
blame. [ *Exeunt.*

SCENE II. *A Plain near Tamworth.*

*Enter, with drum and colours, RICHMOND, OXFORD,  
SIR JAMES BLUNT, SIR WALTER HERBERT, and  
others, with Forces, marching.*

*Richm.* Fellows in arms, and my most loving  
friends,  
Bruised underneath the yoke of tyranny,  
Thus far into the bowels of the land  
Have we march'd on without impediment.  
And here receive we from our father Stanley  
Lives of fair comfort and encouragement.  
The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,  
That spoil'd your summer fields and fruitful  
vines,  
Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes  
his trough  
In your embowell'd bosoms, this foul swine  
Lies now even in the centre of this isle,  
Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn :  
From Tamworth thither is but one day's march.  
In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends,  
To reap the harvest of perpetual peace  
By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

*Oxf.* Every man's conscience is a thousand men,  
To fight against this guilty homicide.

*Herb.* I doubt not but his friends will turn to  
us.

*Blunt.* He hath no friends but what are friends  
for fear,  
Which in his dearest need will fly from him

*Richm.* All for our vantage: then, in God's  
name, march.

True hope is swift, and flies with swallows'  
wings;

Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *Bosworth Field.*

*Enter* King RICHARD and Forces; the Duke of  
NORFOLK, Earl of SURREY, and others.

*K. Rich.* Here pitch our tents, even here in  
Bosworth Field.

My Lord of Surrey, why look you so sad?

*Sur.* My heart is ten times lighter than my  
looks.

*K. Rich.* My lord of Norfolk,—

*Nor.* Here, most gracious liege.

*K. Rich.* Norfolk, we must have knocks; ha!  
must we not?

*Nor.* We must both give and take, my gracious  
lord.

*K. Rich.* Up with my tent! here will I lie  
to-night;

But where to-morrow? Well, all's one for that.

Who hath descried the number of the traitors?

Nor. Six or seven thousand is their utmost power.

K. Rich. Why, our battalia trebles that account:  
Besides, the king's name is a tower of strength,  
Which they upon the adverse faction want.  
Up with the tent! Come, noble gentlemen,  
Let us survey the vantage of the ground;  
Call for some men of sound direction.  
Let's lack no discipline, make no delay;  
For, lords, to-morrow is a busy day. [Exeunt.

*Enter, on the other side of the field, RICHMOND,  
Sir WILLIAM BRANDON, OXFORD, and other  
Officers. Some of the Soldiers pitch RICH-  
MOND'S tent.*

Richm. The weary sun hath made a golden set,  
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,  
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.  
Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my standard.  
Give me some ink and paper in my tent.  
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,  
Limit each leader to his several charge,  
And part in just proportion our small power.  
My Lord of Oxford, you, Sir William Brandon,  
And you, Sir Walter Herbert, stay with me.  
The Earl of Pembroke keeps his regiment.  
Good Captain Blunt, bear my good-night to him,  
And by the second hour in the morning  
Desire the earl to see me in my tent.  
Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me;  
Where is Lord Stanley quarter'd, do you know?

Blunt. Unless I have mista'en his colours much,  
Which well I am assured I have not done,



His regiment lies half a mile at least  
South from the mighty power of the king.

*Richm.* If without peril it be possible,  
Sweet Blunt, make some good means to speak  
with him,

And give him from me this most needful note.

*Blunt.* Upon my life, my lord, I'll undertake  
it;

And so, God give you quiet rest to-night!

*Richm.* Good night, good Captain Blunt. Come,  
gentlemen,

Let us consult upon to-morrow's business;  
In to my tent; the dew is raw and cold.

[*They withdraw into the tent.*]

*Enter, to his tent, King RICHARD, NORFOLK,  
RATCLIFF, and CATESBY.*

*K. Rich.* What is't o'clock?

*Cates.* It's supper-time, my lord;  
It's nine o'clock.

*K. Rich.* I will not sup to-night.  
Give me some ink and paper.

What, is my beaver easier than it was,  
And all my armour laid into my tent?

*Cates.* It is, my liege; and all things are in  
readiness.

*K. Rich.* Good Norfolk, hie thee to thy charge;  
Use careful watch; choose trusty sentinels.

*Nor.* I go, my lord.

*K. Rich.* Stir with the lark to-morrow, gentle  
Norfolk.

*Nor.* I warrant you, my lord.

[*Exit.*]

*K. Rich.* Ratcliff!

*Rat.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* Send out a pursuivant at arms  
To Stanley's regiment ; bid him bring his power  
Before sun-rising, lest his son George fall  
Into the blind cave of eternal night.  
Fill me a bowl of wine. Give me a watch.  
Saddle white Surrey for the field to-morrow.  
Look that my staves be sound, and not too heavy.  
*Ratcliff* !

*Rat.* My lord !

*K. Rich.* Saw'st thou the melancholy Lord  
Northumberland ?

*Rat.* Thomas the Earl of Surrey, and himself,  
Much about cock-shut time, from troop to troop  
Went through the army, cheering up the soldiers.

*K. Rich.* So, I am satisfied. Give me a bowl  
of wine :

I have not that alacrity of spirit,  
Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.  
Set it down. Is ink and paper ready ?

*Rat.* It is, my lord.

*K. Rich.* Bid my guard watch ; leave me.  
*Ratcliff*, about the mid of night come to my tent  
And help to arm me. Leave me, I say.

[*King RICHARD retires into his tent.*  
*Exeunt RATCLIFF and CATESBY.*

*RICHMOND's tent opens, and discovers him and his  
Officers, &c.*

*Enter STANLEY.*

*Stan.* Fortune and victory sit on thy helm !

*Richm.* All comfort that the dark night can  
afford

Be to thy person, noble father-in-law !  
Tell me how fares our loving mother !

*Stan.* I, by attorney, bless thee from thy mother,  
Who prays continually for Richmond's good !  
So much for that. The silent hours steal on,  
And flaky darkness breaks within the east.  
In brief, for so the season bids us be,  
Prepare thy battle early in the morning,  
And put thy fortune to the arbitrement  
Of bloody strokes and mortal-staring war.  
I, as I may, that which I would I cannot,  
With best advantage will deceive the time,  
And aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms :  
But on thy side I may not be too forward,  
Lest, being seen, thy brother, tender George,  
Be executed in his father's sight.  
Farewell · the leisure and the fearful time  
Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love  
And ample interchange of sweet discourse,  
Which so long sunder'd friends should dwell upon :  
God give us leisure for these rites of love !  
Once more, adieu : be valiant, and speed well !

*Richm.* Good lords, conduct him to his  
regiment.

I'll strive, with troubled thoughts, to take a nap,  
Lest leaden slumber peise me down to-morrow,  
When I should mount with wings of victory.  
Once more, good night, kind lords and gentlemen.

[*Exeunt all but RICHMOND.*]

O ! Thou, whose captain I account myself,  
Look on my forces with a gracious eye :  
Put in their hands Thy bruising irons of wrath,  
That they may crush down with a heavy fall

The usurping helmets of our adversaries.  
Make us Thy ministers of chastisement,  
That we may praise Thee in Thy victory !  
To Thee I do commend my watchful soul,  
Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes :  
Sleeping and waking, O ! defend me still. [*Sleeps.*]

The Ghost of Prince EDWARD, son to HENRY  
THE SIXTH, *rises between the two tents.*

*Ghost.* [*To King RICHARD*] Let me sit heavy  
on thy soul to-morrow !  
Think how thou stabb'dst me in my prime of  
youth  
At Tewksbury : despair therefore, and die !  
[*To RICHMOND.*] Be cheerful, Richmond, for the  
wronged souls  
Of butcher'd princes fight in thy behalf :  
King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee.

*The Ghost of King HENRY THE SIXTH rises.*

*Ghost.* [*To King RICHARD.*] When I was mortal,  
my anointed body  
By thee was punch'd full of deadly holes .  
Think on the Tower and me ; despair, and die !  
Harry the Sixth bids thee despair, and die  
[*To RICHMOND.*] Virtuous and holy, be thou  
conqueror !  
Harry, that prophesied thou should'st be king,  
Doth comfort thee in sleep : live, and flourish !

*The Ghost of CLARENCE rises.*

*Ghost.* [*To King RICHARD.*] Let me sit heavy  
on thy soul to-morrow !

I, that was wash'd to death with fulsome wine,  
 Poor Clarence, by thy guile betray'd to death :  
 To-morrow in the battle think on me,  
 And fall thy edgeless sword . despair, and die !  
 [To RICHMOND ] Thou offspring of the house of  
 Lancaster,

The wronged heirs of York do pray for thee :  
 Good angels guard thy battle ! live, and flourish !

*The Ghosts of RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN, rise.*

*Ghost of Rivers.* [To King RICHARD ] Let me  
 sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow !

Rivers, that died at Pomfret . despair, and die !

*Ghost of Grey.* [To King RICHARD ] Think  
 upon Grey, and let thy soul despair !

*Ghost of Vaughan.* [To King RICHARD ] Think  
 upon Vaughan, and with guilty fear

Let fall thy lance : despair, and die !

*All.* [To RICHMOND ] Awake, and think our  
 wrongs in Richard's bosom

Will conquer him . awake, and win the day !

*The Ghost of HASTINGS rises.*

*Ghost.* [To King RICHARD ] Bloody and guilty,  
 guiltily awake ;

And in a bloody battle end thy days !

Think on Lord Hastings : despair, and die !

[To RICHMOND.] Quiet untroubled soul, awake,  
 awake !

Arm, fight, and conquer, for fair England's sake !

*The Ghosts of the two young Princes rise.*

*Ghosts.* [To King RICHARD.] Dream on thy

cousins smother'd in the Tower :  
Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard,  
And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death !  
Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair, and die !  
[To RICHMOND] Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace,  
and wake in joy ;  
Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy !  
Live, and beget a happy race of kings !  
Edward's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

*The Ghost of Lady ANNE rises*

*Ghost* [To King RICHARD] Richard, thy wife,  
that wretched Anne thy wife,  
That never slept a quiet hour with thee,  
Now fills thy sleep with perturbations  
To-morrow in the battle think on me,  
And fall thy edgeless sword : despair, and die !  
[To RICHMOND] Thou, quiet soul, sleep thou a  
quiet sleep,  
Dream of success and happy victory !  
Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee.

*The Ghost of BUCKINGHAM rises*

*Ghost.* [To King RICHARD] The first was I,  
that help'd thee to the crown ;  
The last was I that felt thy tyranny  
O ! in the battle think on Buckingham,  
And die in terror of thy guiltiness.  
Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death :  
Fainting, despair ; despairing, yield thy breath !  
[To RICHMOND] I died for hope ere I could lend  
thee aid :  
But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismay'd :

God and good angels fight on Richmond's side;  
And Richard falls in height of all his pride.

[*The Ghosts vanish. King RICHARD starts  
out of his dream.*]

*K. Rich.* Give me another horse! bind up my  
wounds!

Have mercy, Jesu! Soft! I did but dream.  
O! coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me.  
The lights burn blue. It is now dead midnight.  
Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh.  
What! do I fear myself? there's none else by:  
Richard loves Richard; that is, I am I.  
Is there a murderer here? No. Yes; I am:  
Then fly: what! from myself? Great reason  
why;

Lest I revenge. What! myself upon myself?  
Alack! I love myself. Wherefore? for any good  
That I myself have done unto myself?

O! no. alas! I rather hate myself  
For hateful deeds committed by myself.  
I am a villain. Yet I lie; I am not.  
Fool, of thyself speak well: fool, do not flatter.  
My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,  
And every tongue brings in a several tale,  
And every tale condemns me for a villain.  
Perjury, perjury, in the high'st degree;  
Murder, stern murder, in the direst degree;  
All several sins, all used in each degree,  
Throng to the bar, crying all, 'Guilty! guilty!'  
I shall despair. There is no creature loves me;  
And if I die, no soul shall pity me:  
Nay, wherefore should they, since that I myself  
Find in myself no pity to myself?

Methought the souls of all that had murder'd  
Came to my tent; and every one did threat  
To-morrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

*Enter RATCLIFF.*

*Rat.* My lord!

*K. Rich.* 'Zounds! who is there?

*Rat.* Ratcliff, my lord; 'tis I. The early village  
cock

Hath twice done salutation to the morn;  
Your friends are up, and buckle on their armour.

*K. Rich.* O Ratcliff! I have dream'd a fearful  
dream.

What thinkest thou, will our friends prove all  
true?

*Rat.* No doubt, my lord.

*K. Rich.* O Ratcliff! I fear, I fear,—

*Rat.* Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of  
shadows.

*K. Rich.* By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night  
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard  
Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers  
Armed in proof, and led by shallow Richmond.  
It is not yet near day. Come, go with me;  
Under our tents I'll play the eaves-dropper,  
To hear if any mean to shrink from me. [*Exit.*]

*RICHMOND wakes. Enter OXFORD and others.*

*Lords.* Good morrow, Richmond!

*Richm.* Cry mercy, lords and watchful gentle-  
men,  
That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.



*Lords.* How have you slept, my lord ?

*Richm.* The sweetest sleep, and fairest-boding dreams

That ever enter'd in a drowsy head, . .

Have I since your departure had, my lords

Methought their souls, whose bodies Richard murder'd,

Came to my tent and cried on victory :

I promise you my heart is very jocund

In the remembrance of so fair a dream.

How far into the morning is it, lords ?

*Lords.* Upon the stroke of four.

*Richm.* Why, then 'tis time to arm and give direction.

*His oration to his Soldiers.*

More than I have said, loving countrymen,

The leisure and enforcement of the time

Forbids to dwell on . yet remember this,

God and our good cause fight upon our side ;

The prayers of holy saints and wronged souls,

Like high-rear'd bulwarks, stand before our faces ;

Richard except, those whom we fight against

Had rather have us win than him they follow.

For what is he they follow ? truly, gentlemen,

A bloody tyrant and a homicide ;

One raised in blood, and one in blood establish'd ;

One that made means to come by what he hath,

And slaughter'd those that were the means to help him ;

A base foul stone, made precious by the foil

Of England's chair, where he is falsely set ;

One that hath ever been God's enemy.

Then, if you fight against Go's enemy,  
God will in justice ward you as his soldiers ;  
If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,  
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain ;  
If you do fight against your country's foes,  
Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire ;  
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,  
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors ;  
If you do free your children from the sword,  
Your children's children quit it in your age.  
Then, in the name of God and all these rights,  
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords.  
For me, the ransom of my bold attempt  
Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's cold face ;  
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt  
The least of you shall share his part thereof.  
Sound, drums and trumpets, boldly and cheerfully ;  
God and Saint George ! Richmond and victory !

[*Exeunt*

*Re-enter* KING RICHARD, RATCLIFF, Attendants,  
and Forces.

*K. Rich.* What said Northumberland as touching Richmond ?

*Rat.* That he was never trained up in arms.

*K. Rich.* He said the truth : and what said Surrey then ?

*Rat.* He smiled and said, ' The better for our purpose '

*K. Rich.* He was i' the right ; and so indeed it is.

[*Clock strikes.*

Tell the clock there. Give me a calendar.  
Who saw the sun to-day ?

*Rat.* • Not I, my lord.

*K. Rich.* Then he disdains to shine; for by the book

He should have braved the east an hour ago:  
A black day will it be to somebody.

*Ratcliff!*

*Rat.* My lord!

*K. Rich.* The sun will not be seen to-day;  
The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.  
I would these dewy tears were from the ground.  
Not shine to-day! Why, what is that to me  
More than to Richmond? for the self-same heaven  
That frowns on me looks sadly upon him.

*Enter NORFOLK.*

*Nor.* Arm, arm, my lord! the foe vaunts in  
the field.

*K. Rich.* Come, bustle, bustle; caparison my  
horse.

Call up Lord Stanley, bid him bring his power:  
I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,  
And thus my battle shall be ordered:  
My foreward shall be drawn out all in length,  
Consisting equally of horse and foot;  
Our archers shall be placed in the midst:  
John Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Earl of Surrey,  
Shall have the leading of the foot and horse.  
They thus directed, we will follow  
In the main battle, whose puissance on either side  
Shall be well winged with our chiefest horse.  
This, and Saint George to boot! What think'st  
thou, Norfolk?

*Nor.* A good direction, war-like sovereign.

This found I on my tent this morning.

[*Giving a scroll.*]

K. Rich. *Jockey of Norfolk, be not too bold,  
For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.*

A thing devised by the enemy.

Go, gentlemen ; every man to his charge :  
Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls ;  
Conscience is but a word that cowards use,  
Devised at first to keep the strong in awe :  
Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our  
law.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell ;  
If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell.

*His oration to his Army.*

What shall I say more than I have inferr'd ?  
Remember whom you are to cope withal ;  
A sort of vagabonds, rascals, and runaways,  
A scum of Bretons and base lackey peasants,  
Whom their o'er-cloyed country vomits forth  
To desperate adventures and assured destruction.  
You sleeping safe, they bring to you unrest ;  
You having lands, and bless'd with beauteous  
wives,

They would restrain the one, distain the other.  
And who doth lead them but a paltry fellow,  
Long kept in Bretagne at our mother's cost ?  
A milksop, one that never in his life  
Felt so much cold as over shoes in snow ?  
Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again ;  
Lash hence these overweening rags of France,  
These famish'd beggars, weary of their lives ;

Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,  
For want of means, poor rats, had hang'd them-  
selves.

If we be conquer'd, let men conquer ~~us~~;  
And not these bastard Bretons, whom our fathers  
Have in their own land beaten, bobb'd, and  
thump'd,

And on record, left them the heirs of shame.  
Shall these enjoy our land? lie with our wives?  
Ravish our daughters? [Drum afar off.

Hark! I hear their drum.  
Fight, gentlemen of England! fight, bold yeomen!  
Draw, archers, draw your arrows to the head!  
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood;  
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves!

*Enter a Messenger.*

What says Lord Stanley? will he bring his  
power?

*Mess.* My lord, he doth deny to come

*K. Rich.* Off with his son George's head!

*Nor.* My lord, the enemy is pass'd the marsh:  
After the battle let George Stanley die

*K. Rich.* A thousand hearts are great within  
my bosom.

Advance our standards! set upon our foes!  
Our ancient word of courage, fair Saint George,  
Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons!  
Upon them! Victory sits on our helms.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV. *Another Part of the Field.*

*Alarum. Excursions. Enter NORFOLK and Forces  
fighting; to him CATESBY.*

*Cates.* Rescue, my Lord of Norfolk ! rescue,  
rescue !

The king enacts more wonders than a man,  
Daring an opposite to every danger.  
His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,  
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death.  
Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost !

*Alarum. Enter King RICHARD.*

*K. Rich.* A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a  
horse !

*Cates.* Withdraw, my lord ; I'll help you to a  
horse.

*K. Rich.* Slave ! I have set my life upon a cast,  
And I will stand the hazard of the die.  
I think there be six Richmonds in the field ;  
Five have I slain to-day instead of him.  
A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a horse !

[*Exeunt.*

*Alarums. Enter King RICHARD and RICHMOND ;  
and exeunt fighting. Retreat and flourish.  
Re-enter RICHMOND, STANLEY bearing the  
crown, with divers other Lords, and Forces.*

*Richm.* God and your arms be praised, victori-  
ous friends ;  
The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.  
*Stan.* Courageous Richmond, well hast thou  
acquit thee.  
Lo ! here, this long-usurped royalty  
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch

Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal :  
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

*Richm.* Great God of heaven, say amen to all !  
But tell me, is young George Stanley living ?

*Stan.* He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town,  
Whither, if you please, we may withdraw us.

*Richm.* What men of name are slain on either  
side ?

*Stan.* John Duke of Norfolk, Walter Lord  
Ferrers,  
Sir Robert Brakenbury, and Sir William Brandon.

*Richm.* Inter their bodies as becomes their  
births :

Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled  
That in submission will return to us ;  
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,  
We will unite the white rose and the red :  
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,  
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity !  
What traitor hears me, and says not amen ?  
England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself,  
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,  
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,  
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire :  
All this divided York and Lancaster  
Divided in their dire division,  
O ! now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,  
The true succeders of each royal house,  
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together ;  
And let their heirs, God, if thy will be so,  
Enrich the time to come with smooth-faced peace,  
With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days !  
Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord,

That would reduce these bloody days again,  
And make poor England weep in streams of blood !  
Let them not live to taste this land's increase,  
That would with treason wound this fair land's  
peace !

Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again :  
That she may long live here, God say amen !

[*Exeunt.*















